Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-166 *28 August 1995*

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Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Members Sentenced; Jericho Closure Continues

TA2608115295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Jericho court today handed down prison terms to two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members: 'Abd-al-Majid Dudin was given a 12-year sentence, and Rushdi al- Khatib was given seven years. A senior officer of the Jericho Palestinian security service said the two were members of the Hamas squad responsible for the suicide attack on the Jerusalem bus. He noted that the two are not residents of Jericho, and fled there after the attack. According to the officer, Israel had demanded that they be handed over, but the Palestinians rejected the demand.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the closure on Jericho is still on. The security forces are conducting a hunt for the terrorist Muhyi al-Din Sharif from East Jerusalem who apparently fled to Jericho and has not yet been captured. He is suspected of handing the bomb to the Jerusalem suicide terrorist.

Israeli Extradition Request of Hamas Members Rejected

TA2608154295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Palestinian Authority [PA] official Sa'ib 'Urayqat said today that the Palestinians have rejected Israel's request that the two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members sentenced in Jericho be turned over to it. The two will remain in the city's prison. [passage omitted]

The Jericho district attorney said today that the two were not directly linked with last week's bus bombing in Jerusalem.

Jericho is under closure for the fourth consecutive day, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is not allowing any traffic in or out of the city.

'Urayqat said that the closure was imposed in order to pressure the Palestinians to turn over the Hamas members. A Palestinian official in Jericho said that his men are looking for the third wanted man, Muhyi al-Din Sharif. [passage omitted]

Jericho 'Siege' Continues; Other Closures Lifted

JN2708073195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation authorities continue to impose a siege on Jericho for the fifth consecutive day. The closure of the occupied West Bank, which followed the recent operation in occupied Jerusalem, has been lifted. Workers with valid work permits are allowed to go to their work within the green line.

Ministry Denounces Closure

JN2708141995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Information Ministry has issued a press release denouncing the Israeli occupation authorities' decision to extend the military closure of Jericho.

The release warns that these measures may turn into a general policy aimed at encroaching on the independence of the Palestinian National Authority.

The statement adds that the Israeli Government's use of the inhuman collective punishment policy is a serious violation of the rights of the Palestinian individual, international conventions, and the agreements signed between the PLO and Israel.

The Information Ministry says the National Authority's decision not to hand over wanted persons to the occupation authorities is a correct and wise decision that strengthens Palestinian independence and, at the same time, shows respect for the agreements signed with the Israeli Government.

'Hundreds' Riot in Protest

TA2808143095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hundreds of Jericho inhabitants rioted at the roadblock set up at the entrance to the town in protest against its closure and stoned a Border Police patrol, wounding three policemen.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in Jericho told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that during the riot, Arab residents seized an IDF outpost and torched an Israeli flag. The area is now quiet.

Groups To Adopt 'Action Plan'

JN2808064995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of Palestinian institutions, national forces, and tribes in the Jericho area will meet in Jericho Mosque this evening to adopt a joint action plan against the Israeli occupation authorities' closure of the Jericho area. They met last night and denounced the Israeli violations, considering the closure a violation of the provisions of the Palestinian-Israeli

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agreement. They voiced support for the Palestinian Authority's decision not to extradite two men to the Israeli occupation authorities.

Official Denies 'Arafat Ordered Pursuit of 'Ayyash

TA2708092895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Dahlan, head of the Palestinian Security Service in the Gaza Strip, says that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] member Yahya 'Ayyash, the Engineer, is not in the Gaza Strip, adding that 'Arafat has not issued any order to search for him.

On the other hand, Nasr Yusuf, commander of the autonomy police, says that 'Ayyash is indeed in the Gaza Strip and that searches are being conducted after him under orders from 'Arafat. This is reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Yusuf Denies Yahya 'Ayyash in Gaza

JN2708162795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Nasr Yusuf, director general of public security in the Gaza Strip, denied saying that Yahya 'Ayyash [Hamas member suspected of masterminding recent bus bombing] is in the Gaza Strip. In a statement to Voice of Palestine, he said that reports by Israeli radio in this regard are baseless. Major General Nasr Yusuf said that security bodies are investigating this issue and that neither they nor the Israeli side have any confirmed information on this issue.

Radio Reports Signing of Power Transfer Agreement

JN2808075295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians and Israelis signed an agreement on the transfer of eight civilian powers to the National Authority in Cairo this afternoon. The signing ceremony was held at the Diplomats' Club in the Egyptian capital and was attended by Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestinian ambassador to Egypt; Badr Hammam, Egyptian assistant foreign minister; and the ambassadors of the United States, Russia, and Norway to Egypt.

Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civil affairs, signed the agreement for the Palestinian side, and Oren Shahor, coordinator of Israeli activities, signed it for Israel.

According to this agreement, the Palestinian Authority will be in charge of labor, trade and industry, gas and petroleum, insurance, postal services, statistics, agriculture, and local government.

'Arafat Adviser on Closure of Jerusalem Offices

JN2708120995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli sources have said that Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal might today sign orders closing down at least two Palestinian institutions in occupied Jerusalem. According to these sources, these institutions are engaged in political activities in violation of the law.

Meanwhile, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has commented on the statements made by Israeli officials on a plan to close Palestinian institutions in occupied Jerusalem, saying that the U.S. letter of assurance former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker delivered to the Palestinian negotiating team stipulated that Israel would not undermine the demographic status of the holy city and the status of Palestinian institutions in the occupied city. The U.S. letter of assurance also stated that Israel would safeguard Jerusalem's holy shrines, Abu-Rudaynah maintained.

Abu-Rudaynah noted that the letter sent by the late Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed that Palestinian activities in Jerusalem are part of the Palestinian people's rights that are recognized by both the international community and Israel.

Adviser 'Regrets' Closure

JN2708193195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, adviser to and spokesman for President Yasir 'Arafat, has said that he regrets the Israeli police's decision to close down Palestinian offices in the city of Jerusalem and that the move will hamper efforts to bring about peace, particularly since these offices have existed in the city of Jerusalem for a long time to serve the public. He also said that these offices are among the Palestinian institutions, which have been suffering from the indifference and hostility of the Israeli occupation authorities.

Kanafani added that everybody knows that the closure of the Palestinian offices would not change the Jerusalem situation, the peace accords, or mutual pledges to ensure the continuation of the peace process.

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Officials: Closure Violates Accords

TA2808052095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Report by Golan Yokhpaz]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] sources have harshly criticized the police minister's decision to close down three Palestinian offices in East Jerusalem. Faysal al-Husayni, the PA official in charge of Jerusalem affairs, said this morning that the Oslo accords prohibit Israel from closing the offices.

Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, an aide to 'Arafat, promised that the Palestinian reaction would be swift:

[Begin al-Tibi recording] This decision constitutes a blatant breach of Foreign Minister Peres' pledge, in a letter to the late Norwegian foreign minister, that Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem would — in so many words — be preserved. The Israeli move is being discussed, and I am sure the Palestinians will announce a decision soon. [end recording]

The closure of the problematic Orient House is not on the agenda as yet, and so far the Palestinians have not threatened to stop the negotiations.

One of the institutions about to be closed is the statistics institute. Local Palestinians say that the office started operating five years ago, long before the Oslo accord, and that it is not supported by the PA.

The second is the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation [PBC] on al-Mas'udi Street in East Jerusalem. This small office was established by Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, currently the PBC director general, approximately five years ago. PBC sources say the institution does not serve the PA, although Abu-'Ayyash may be running his public affairs from the place.

The third place the police plan to close is the Palestinian health office. Information about it is scarce, but Peace Watch, which has been monitoring the implementation of the Oslo accords, claims it is indeed a PA office.

It should be emphasized that the three offices will not be closed this morning. They will receive orders to shut down and, if they fail to obey within four days, Jerusalem police will take action.

'Arafat: Redeployment Should Include Hebron

JN2708153195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat stressed that redeployment should include Hebron just like other cities in the West Bank. During his meeting with a delegation from Hebron — consisting of the head and members of Hebron's municipal council — at the Presidential Office in Gaza today, he stressed his firm position on the issue of Hebron, which is that whatever applies to other cities applies to Hebron. President 'Arafat asked the Palestinian negotiating delegation to adhere to this firm stand toward Hebron. The Hebron delegation reviewed the situation in the city and briefed the president on the latest developments in it.

In another development, a Palestinian official media spokesman considered the shooting at the residence of Ghassan al-Shak'ah, head of the Nabulus municipal committee, by a group of undisciplined and irresponsible people a serious precedent in which others failed to spread hateful sedition among the Palestinian people and invoke fighting, which the Palestinian people rejected through their awareness, faith, and adherence to national unity. The official media spokesman said that the National Authority will not be lenient in dealing with the instigators of these incidents, which are aimed at harming national unity at a time when the National Authority is at the threshold of moving to the West Bank. The official media spokesman added that President 'Arafat ordered conducting necessary investigations and punishing any official who is proven to be involved in the incident. The Palestinian official praised al- Shak'ah's stands and efforts in the service of Nabulus and its municipality.

Quray': IDF May Stay in Hebron After Elections

TA2708083495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Aug 95 pp A1, A10

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinian Authority [PA] does not rule out the continued presence of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the center of Hebron to guard the settlers. Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], head of the Palestinian delegation to the interim arrangement talks, said this yesterday in an interview to HA'ARETZ.

Abu-'Ala' said the IDF may remain in the city for the duration of the elections to the autonomy council as well and even afterward, on condition that it evacuates other parts of the city and that Israel agrees to regard these security arrangements as "exceptional and temporary," until a solution satisfactory to both sides is found for the Hebron security issue.

Abu-'Ala' said yesterday that the issue of Hebron remains the main problem on the agenda of the negotiations, after substantial progress was achieved in last week's talks. Last Friday, at the end of an intensive week of negotiations in Elat, Abu-'Ala' and Uri Savir,

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the heads of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations to the talks, issued an unusual statement in which they said that the two delegations have attained a "combined draft" of the entire interim accord, including the various appendices dealing with security, redeployment, elections, and civilian issues (the transfer of civilian powers). The appendices dealing with legal issues and cooperation between the two sides have almost been finalized.

The "combined draft" refers to an agreement that combines the drafts and formulations of both sides wherever the formulations differ on controversial poiats. The different formulations of the two parties have been retained alongside each other on all controversial points. During the coming week, small teams will try to solve as many disagreements as possible. At the end of the week, the parties will brief their respective leaders about the progress made and will receive directives in a bid to overcome the remaining obstacles.

According to members of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiating teams, PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is slated to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin early next week. [passage omitted]

Al-Rujub Denies Wanted Men Hiding in Jericho

TA2808150795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As he was making his way from Jericho to Elat at noon today, Jibril al-Rujub, the head of the Palestinian Security Service, said he knew nothing about wanted men fleeing from the territories to Jericho and finding shelter there. According to him, at the moment there are only two wanted Palestinian men in Jericho, who were imprisoned after standing trial. Our correspondent Oren Kohen reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Kohen] How many wanted men are being held in jail at the moment?

[Al-Rujub] Two.

[Kohen] The Israeli press reports on seven to 12 wanted men.

[Al-Rujub] They may report whatever they want. I am talking about what the situation is in the area under our control.

[Kohen] Closure orders were issued yesterday against Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem. What do you think about this move?

[Al-Rujub] I do not think this is right. I believe it damages the peace process and coexistence and it will benefit neither the Palestinian Authority nor the Israeli Government. East Jerusalem is part of the West Bank which was occupied in 1967. There are sites holy to the Jews, and we understand this, but East Jerusalem is occupied land. [end recording]

Fatah Movement Demands Release of Ahmad Ghunaym

JN2608141595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fatah Movement has denounced the Israeli occupation forces' arrest of Ahmad Ghunaym, a prominent Fatah leader in Jerusalem and the West Bank, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, and member of the Movement's higher committee.

A statement issued in this regard says that the arrest of Ahmad Ghunaym falls within a series of Israeli arbitrary measures against Jerusalem and its national establishments and figures. The statement stresses that such a serious Israeli measure and the accompanying provocative campaigns and flimsy pretexts are aimed at appeasing extremist Israeli right wing circles who are launching a ferocious attack.

Fatah demanded the Israeli Government to stop these practices and to immediately release Ahmad Ghunaym and all prisoners. The Movement urged all international and humanitarian organizations to immediately intervene and put an end to Israeli violations.

Kanafani Denounces Killing of Two in Hebron

JN2508144295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibrahim Ahmad Ibrahim al-Qawasimi and Nadir Nizam Shihadah were martyred in the city of Hebron at dawn today when the Israeli bulldozers destroyed two houses over the heads of the two men. As a result, the occupation authorities have imposed a curfew on the city since the morning.

Marwan Kanafani, adviser to and official spokesman for President Yasir 'Arafat, commented on the incident and said that extending the National Authority to the rest of Palestinian territories and ending Israel's occupation of them will protect the Palestinian society from danger and will maintain order and law.

Kanafani denounced the principle of physical liquidation and the use of violence by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian citizens. He stressed that the National Authority has demanded that Israel clarify what occurred in the city of Hebron today.

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Islamic Jihad Denies Operations Planned in Syria

JN2508140095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, based in Damascus, denied that orders for suicide operations in Israel are issued from Syria, dismissing statements to this effect by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Al-Shaqaqi told old correspondent Thana' al-Imam that the presence of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Damascus is transient and aims at political activity only.

[Begin al-Shaqaqi recording] Yitzhaq Rabin knows well and perhaps better than anybody else that the planning for military operations in occupied Palestine takes place inside Palestine. He knows well that we send neither men nor weapons from anywhere outside Palestine. Our people are lively and are ready to fight. Thousands of our young men are looking forward to martyrdom. The whole issue is that Rabin wants to export his internal crisis abroad. His government cannot hold out against the fighters' strikes despite their limited capabilities. Therefore, Rabin is trying to export his crisis. Having looked around himself, he found that the Syrian-Israeli track is facing complications. Therefore, he began to look for ways to extort Syria, referring to the presence of the leaders some military factions in Syria. I do not believe that those statements frighten anybody. This is because our basic force is under his own feet, rather than abroad. The presence of Hamas in Damascus is very limited and transient. It is not official presence. Syria respects the Palestinians' right to resistance, for all their territory is still occupied. Our activity in Damascus and that of our brothers in Hamas is a purely political or media activity. [end recording]

PIF Official Announces Inception in Gaza

JN2508113195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Aug 95

[By 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Islamic Front [PIF] has announced its inception at a news conference the front's officials held at the conferences hall at the Arab Journalists League in Gaza today.

Dr. 'Ayish 'Abd-al-'Al, official in charge of the front in Gaza, said that the PIF will spare no effort to entrench national unity among the sons of the Palestinian people to participate in the people's reconstruction march.

'Abd-al-'Al stressed the need to achieve security and stability for citizens. He pointed out that the PIF believes in political pluralism and will participate in all Palestinian institutions. He called for opening a serious national dialogue among all factions to achieve national accord on common issues.

'Abd-al-'Al added that the PIF has obtained an approval in principle of its establishment from the National Authority.

The PIF statement, which was read by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Al, emphasized that confronting the stage's repercussions and the maneuvers of penetrating the people's awareness constitute an effort which should be exerted by all honest and free people.

The statement noted that struggle for guiding political action in the Palestinian arena to develop the Palestinian situation and to save it from conflicts constitutes an essential issue in the front's political activity.

The PIF seeks to create a Palestinian generation which is aware of their cause and which carries the message of Islam.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Al said that the PIF is not affiliated with any state or movement, noting that the official PIF spokesman abroad is Shaykh Salih 'Abd-al-'Al who is in Algeria.

State Security Court Issues Prison Sentences

JN2608184595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the Public Security Forces in Jericho has stated that in a session today, the Supreme State Security Court looked into the case referred to it by the military public prosecutor against 'Abd-al-Majid 'Ali 'Abdallah Darwish and 'Uthman Muhammad al-Khatib on charges of harming the interests of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian National Authority and carrying out acts detrimental to public order, citizens' security and safety, and the peace process. The court sentenced the first defendant to 12 years in prison and the second defendant to seven years in prison.

Remarks Put Human Rights Activist at Risk

TA2708085095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Israeli human rights organization Betzelem has called on other human rights groups and the Palestinian Authority [PA] to condemn remarks by Jericho Preventive Security Service head Col. Jibril al-Rujub, who accused field-worker Bassam 'Id of being an "Israeli police agent."

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Al-Rujub's remarks were printed in Arabic newspapers in Israel after Betzelem published its report, "Neither Law nor Justice," at a news conference Thursday. The report sharply criticized the use of torture and arbitrary arrest by members of the Preventive Security Service. 'Id collected most of the testimony.

It was the first time that Betzelem, established to monitor Israeli abuses of Palestinians during the intifada, had tackled human rights abuses under the Palestinian Authority. It did so after deciding that its mandate was "the Israeli-occupied territories," and that the Preventive Security was working in coordination with Israel in those territories. The report also criticized Israel for overlooking the abuses of Jibril al-Rujub's agents, except in Jerusalem.

The charge of being a police agent or a collaborator could expose 'Id, a resident of the Shu'fat refugee camp in Jerusalem, to arrest or physical danger himself.

'Id said he was aware of the risks of being associated with the report before it was published. An official of the PA Information Ministry in Ramallah asked him not to go ahead with the news conference or at least not to appear there himself.

The Palestinian Authority attacked the Betzelem report for "containing many mistakes," but refrained from personal attacks on the integrity of its compilers.

PA Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Nabil Sha'th noted that Betzelem, which usually criticizes Israeli occupation practices, "has a very important function and its reports cannot be ignored."

Betzelem contacted several human rights organizations on Friday, including Amnesty International, The Carter Center and Reporters Without Frontiers, and asked them to intervene.

Human Rights Watch sent a sharp letter to PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, saying:

"We urge you to instruct Col. al-Rujub to retract immediately and publicly his unsubstantiated allegation... and direct your attention to the findings of the new report."

"If any harm is caused to Mr. 'Id we shall consider this the responsibility of the PNA [Palestinian National Authority] in general and the Preventive Security Services in particular," Betzelem Executive Director Yizhar Be'er wrote in a letter to 'Arafat.

In Israel, the Arab Association of Human Rights, headed by Mansur Qadush, attacked al-Rujub's "police agent" comment in a cable TV program broadcast in northern Israel.

"A state of democracy and law has to express understanding of all criticism by human rights groups in it," he said.

Al-Rujub himself was unrepentant yesterday. "'Id is an abject liar and an agent of the Israeli police. I was the first to denounce many acts that he connected the Preventive Security with.

"He and Betzelem know that Ahmad Tabuq is wanted by the Preventive Security Service and that we do not include such people like him," he said.

Tabuq from Nabulus was identified by Betzelem as being one of the most abusive interrogators.

In the past Betzelem has been accused by some Israeli sources on the right of being on the PLO payroll for its condemnation of Israeli human rights violations in the territories.

Banks' New Role in Development Criticized

95AA0207A Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 12 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by 'Ibal Press in Nablus]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the last two years, more than 10 banks have opened branches in various parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while a similar number of banks are preparing to start up banking activity in Palestinian territory.

This relatively large banking presence, however, of which the Palestinian territories have been deprived ever since the end of the 1967 war, has not been reflected as intended on the developmental process, nor has it helped to stimulate it in terms of projects and new investment opportunities.

Estimates of the percentage or volume of loans granted by these banks vary according to the sum of the financial deposits attracted from the population of the Palestinian territories.

While Dr. Nasr 'Abd-al-Karim, director of the Department of Accounting at the national al-Najah University, says that this percent did not exceed 10 percent until the end of last year, Mahmud al-Takruri, deputy regional director of the Cairo Amman Bank, believes that it reached nearly 35-40 percent of total financial deposits in the banks operating in the Palestinian territories.

Absence of Authority

Zuhdi Shabitah, director of the Arab Bank branch in Nablus, believes that the absence of judicial and executive authority in the West Bank still constitutes a major obstacle to the freedom of banking activity,

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apart from the impact of the problems of registering the lands, which is bringing about many complications.

Shabitah points out that the expectations of the banks, too, were exaggerated; he explains the effect of developments subsequent to the agreement of principles, especially the government's failure to give commitments to the Palestinian Authority, on top of continual Israeli measures and delays to complicate the investment climate.

Inherent Reasons

Dr. Qasim Jawdah, economics professor at al-Najah University, addresses the objective factors in the activity and policies of the banks and believes there are inherent factors relating to the nature of existing banks as private institutions whose primary objective is profit. This makes them active in fields that provide quick and easy returns and distances them from primary sectors in the economy.

Mahmud al-Takruri, deputy regional director of the Cairo Amman Bank, says that the banks are active in major economic sectors such as tourism and industry, especially light and medium industry.

He explains that the relative distance of banks from some sectors is due to objective factors. He indicated that the contracting industry, for example, was still in the growth stage and that large contracting firms had not yet been formed. This was also the case in the agricultural sector, whose problems in the areas of distribution and climatic change were on the rise.

The Arab Bank director agrees with this view and confirms that the bank's regional management was intent on preparing a special structure for dealing with the agricultural sector, which is seen as an important and primary sector in the Palestinian economy.

The Need for a Different Kind of Bank

Dr. Nasr 'Abd-al-Karim, director of the Department of Accounting at al-Najah University, thinks existing banks are unfit to lead the way in development and that their role will revolve around banking jobs and facilities. He asserts that the development of the Palestinian economy requires specialized agricultural, real estate, industrial, and commercial banks.

Dr. Qasim Jawdah, an economics professor at al-Najah University, explains that the government usually assumes 51 percent of the capital of such banks and acts to provide long-term, low-interest state loans and pump them into the national economy's primary sectors with the goal of development.

Bank of Credit

Zuhdi Shabitah pointed to Arab Bank President 'Abd-al-Majid Shuman's recent announcement of the establishment of the Bank of Credit with an estimated capital of $30 million.

Arab Bank's Nablus Branch Director Shabitah explained that the establishment of this Bank of Credit came about through cooperation between the Arab Bank and other financial institutions, with the goal of participating and facilitating the management of the economic process and the economic revival in the Palestinian territories.

Shabitah said this bank would specialize in granting small and medium-size loans, indicating that the bank's process for granting loans does not depend only on mortgaging land; the bank relies on its assessment of the personal factor or what might be called the credibility of dealing and confidence, as characterized by the borrower and his reputation in the market.

He emphasized that the Arab Bank is constantly working on upgrading its participation in the field of development as well as facilitating its banking services, indicating that this month—June—it would start using computerized banking in all branches of the Arab Bank around the clock.

Computerized banking allows customers to withdraw any sum from his account, from any bank branch, around the clock, in a single minute, using a special card.

While those in charge of the banks say the funds pouring into their institutions as deposits, savings accounts, etc., have not been channeled into the institutions of the local economy for the reasons mentioned, they vehemently deny the "accusations" of some newspaper reports that the banks operating in the Palestinian territories are channeling these deposits into financial investments abroad.

Loan Guarantee Company

Dr. Qasim Jawdah reaffirms the need of the nascent Palestinian economy for a loan guarantee company along the lines of its Jordanian counterpart, to make it easier for borrowers in various sectors to reach these banks by guaranteeing them with specific conditions from the financial institutions.

Observers and directors of banks operating in the Palestinian territories agree on the major need for an effective monetary authority to undertake the monitoring of these banks.

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Reports Published by Statistics Department

95AA0222a Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
28 Jun 95 p 3

[Article by Nusayr al-Rimawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since its establishment in September 1993, the Palestinian Central Statistics Department [CSD] has issued a number of publications and statistics in the different social and economic fields in order to fill a gap that had been existing since the beginning of the occupation.

In order to present a recent estimate of the population of Palestinian settlements, the CSD issued a study about these settlements entitled "The Palestinian Settlement Population in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," which contained the summary of the joint efforts of the Palestinians to calculate the total population number and the Department's estimates that were the result of its field study of these settlements.

In another area, and for the first time, a standardized criteria for classifying all locally used and handled goods and services has been endorsed. In this sphere, the CSD issued a study under the name of "The West Bank and Gaza Strip Standardized Goods Classification Project." Although it has adopted the major principles of the international industrial classification of all economic activities, this study is important because it allowed for freedom of details in the labeling of economic activities.

In the economic sphere, field teams have been working for three months in order to finish the first inclusive survey in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These teams have succeeded in surveying about 70,000 establishments in the different economic activities. Primary results of this census have been published under the name of "The General Establishment Census for 1994—Primary Results." This report presented the primary results of the General Establishment Census with special emphasis on the number of establishments in the private sector classified according to number of workers, major economic activity, and legal status.

Another economic study published by the CSD is that entitled "Economic Statistics in the West Bank and Gaza Strip." In the "forward" part of this publication, it is mentioned that "statistics provided by the report will contribute, though in a modest manner, to current urgent needs."

The CSD issued a report entitled "Employment Statistics for the West Bank and Gaza Strip." This report contains important information for planning and the preparation of development programs in the social and economic fields. It carries information about the major employment characteristics such as employment, unemployment, and other employment indicators for the occupied Palestinian lands. The report also portrays the principle indicators of these statistics and their different sources.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Protocol for Transfer of Civilian Powers Signed

NC2708174495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1645 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—An agreement on the transfer of civilian powers from Israel to the Palestinian Authority [PA] was signed in Cairo this afternoon.

Jamil al-Tarifi, PA minister of civil affairs, signed for the PA and Oren Shahor, coordinator of the occupied territories' affairs, signed for Israel. Badr Hammam, Egyptian assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs; Norwegian Ambassador Mrs. Mith Ravin [name as transliterated]; U.S. Ambassador Edward Walker; and Russian Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov attended the signing ceremony.

At the beginning of the ceremony Badr Hammam said that this day, when the Palestinians and Israelis sign another document on the transfer of power to the PA, is another favorable milestone on the road to peace. He said Egypt is happy that the signing is taking place on its territory, especially as it has always been a partner of parties who are interested in making peace. He congratulated the representatives of the Palestinian and Israeli nations on reaching this goal.

Head of the Palestinian delegation Jamil al-Tarifi made a speech in which he said that the Palestinians had asked that the agreement on the transfer of powers be signed in Cairo because Egypt is a constant backer of the Palestinian cause and the PA in their quest to bring stability to the region. He expressed the Palestinian delegation's happiness that this protocol is being signed in Cairo.

Al-Tarifi pointed out that the PLO and the PA are committed to the Oslo and Cairo agreements and the entire peace process.

He added: Everyone knows that negotiations are continuing between the Palestinians and Israelis in Elat, and these will finalize the interim phase agreement.

Al-Tarifi voiced hopes that an agreement will soon be signed that will put an end to the tragedies and bloodshed that the region has witnessed. He explained that the agreement which we are working to achieve in the next few weeks will constitute another phase of the Oslo Agreement.

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The head of the Palestinian delegation asserted the importance of stopping acts of violence by any party whatsoever, noting that the Palestinians condemn these acts by the enemies of peace, in which both innocent Palestinians and Israelis die.

He continued: This moment demonstrates the official Palestinian and Israeli determination to continue the peace process. They affirm their commitment to it and seek cooperation so that peace can prevail in the entire Middle East and future generations can enjoy peace and prosperity instead of hatred and war.

Head of the Israeli delegation General Oren Shahor also delivered a speech confirming the two parties' resolve to continue the peace process. He thanked Egypt for hosting the signing ceremony.

Shahor explained that this protocol provides for the transfer of power in eight spheres—agriculture, industry and trade, electricity, petroleum and gas, insurance, postal services, local government, and statistics.

The text of the protocol provides for the following:

Article I. Israel shall transfer power to the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank in the following fields: labor, trade, industry, gas and petroleum, insurance, postal services, statistics, local government, and agriculture, as outlined in this protocol under the term "the eight spheres."

Article II. 1. This includes the appendices of this protocol in connection with the eight spheres and shall be referred to in this agreement as the "appendices" on civilian affairs in the interim agreement to be signed by the two sides, which will be referred to as "the interim agreement".

2. Until the interim agreement concerning the eight spheres is implemented, the terms of the appendices shall be subject to the terms of the protocol and the addenda to these appendices, which will be referred to as "the addenda".

3. According to this protocol, the Palestinian Authority's jurisdiction will not apply to the matters to be discussed in accordance with the Declaration of Principles at the permanent negotiations concerning the arrangements pertaining to the interim self-rule agreement signed in Washington on 13 September 1993 and the agreed minutes thereof.

Article III. The relevant legislative powers, or those that fall within the framework of each of the eight spheres, shall be transferred to the Palestinian Authority once the interim agreement on the eight spheres is implemented. However, the Palestinian side shall be entitled to issue local administrative measures concerning the eight spheres.

Article IV. 1. The provisions included in Article 22 of the agreement on the Gaza Strip and the area of Jericho, as signed in Cairo on 4 May 1994, shall apply to the eight spheres.

2. In accordance with Paragraph 1, Israel shall provide the Palestinian Authority with the information available to it on any pending, expected, or already submitted demands that were filed with any court or judicial body against the Israeli side in connection with the eight spheres.

3. Without violation of Paragraph 1, the Palestinian Authority shall review the civil administration contracts on the eight spheres that extend beyond the date of empowerment in order to decide which contracts will remain valid and which will be terminated. A list of such contracts is appended to this protocol.

Article V. 1. Agreement will be reached on the special arrangements to employ civilian inspectors to insure compliance with the laws and regulations outlined in the eight spheres within the framework of the Committee on Coordination of Civil Affairs and Cooperation, which was formed under the Gaza- Jericho Agreement. These inspectors are entitled to make internal queries about the eight spheres. The inspectors will not wear uniforms of police or military nature, nor will they carry arms.

2. All powers and responsibilities pertinent to enforcing the law, including interrogation, judicial procedures, and imprisonment, shall remain the responsibility of the existing authorities in the West Bank.

Article VI. 1. The transfer of powers and responsibilities in the eight spheres appended to this protocol will take place on 10 September 1995.

2. The process of transferring powers and responsibilities will be coordinated through the Committee on Coordination of Civil Affairs and Cooperation and will be implemented in accordance with the arrangements outlined in this protocol in a peaceful and well- organized way.

3. The PA will continue to employ in the Civil Administration Palestinian workers who currently work in offices included in the eight spheres without infringement on the PA's powers and responsibilities to deal with all employees regarding the issues outlined in the eight spheres. The PA reserves the rights, including the rights relating to pensions for current and former employees.

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4. The main headquarters of all the eight spheres will be in the Jericho area or in the Gaza Strip. Both the Palestinian and Israeli parties have agreed to continue operating the branch offices that currently exist and to establish additional offices if necessary to help in other areas in the West Bank as the two parties agree.

5. The transfer of powers and responsibilities: The Civil Administration and its fixed and movable property will be transferred. These in particular serve the Civil Administration offices in the eight spheres and are necessary for the continued transfer of powers and responsibilities in accordance with this agreement. The property includes, among other things, equipment, registers, files, computer programs, and reports.

Article VII. 1. The PA shall coordinate with the Civil Administration in issues related to each of the eight spheres, and also with regard to the powers and responsibilities that have not been transferred to the PA.

2. Each party shall help and support the other in promoting the effective exercise of its powers and responsibilities.

3. The PA shall notify the Military Government and its Civil Administration of any incidents or assemblies planned on a large scale concerning the eight spheres.

4. The PA shall ban any activities that have a military or police nature in the eight spheres.

5. No clause in this protocol shall affect the continued exercise by the Military Government and its Civil Administration of their authorized powers and responsibilities concerning public security and order, and also concerning the other powers and responsibilities that have not been transferred.

6. The clauses in the appendices that refer to the interim agreement (such as the references to the parts on environment or transportation or to the security appendix) shall be explained as pertaining to the continuation of the authority of the Military Government and its Civil Administration.

Article VIII. Budgets and Government Revenues. All issues related to budgets and government revenues in the eight spheres shall be discussed separately by the two sides.

Article IX. 1. The protocol goes into effect as of the date of its signing.

2. The arrangements provided for by this protocol remain in effect until they are replaced or abrogated by the interim agreement or by any other agreement between the two sides.

3. The appendices, addenda, and the table attached to this protocol constitute an integral part of it.

The Palestinian-Israeli agreement includes a number of appendices relevant to the powers that were transferred: namely, labor; trade and industry; gas, fuel, and petroleum; insurance; postal services; statistics; local government; and agriculture.

The agreement was signed at 1710 Cairo time [1410 GMT]. The ceremony was attended by Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan, and members of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations and embassies. It was also attended by correspondents from the Arab and non-Arab press, news agencies, and television stations.

Al-Tarifi on Hebron, Empowerment Agreement

NC2708171795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with Israel on transfer of powers, has stressed that the status of Hebron cannot differ from the rest of the West Bank cities that will be returned to the Palestinian Authority [PA].

In statements to reporters following the signing in Cairo today of an agreement under which Israel transfers power in eight sectors to the PA, al-Tarifi said there are no differences with Israel over Hebron because what applies to all Palestinian territory will apply to the city.

He said certain measures can be taken regarding the 42 Israeli families that live inside Hebron, but this does not mean the city will not be under PA authority. If international observers are posted in Hebron, he said, this will not be to counteract the redeployment of the Israeli forces out of the city.

Al-Tarifi asserted that postponing discussion on the transfer of water rights to the Palestinians until 1997 does not mean Israel does not recognize the Palestinians' right to the water. He said the Israelis have indeed recognized this right.

He said setting 7 September as the date for signing of the second phased agreement by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington does not mean that this is the final date, but be pointed out that an agreement should be reached by then.

He said: "I am not saying that 7 September is a final date." He stressed that the agreement signed today on the transfer of eight powers to the Palestinians means

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that both are committed to the peace process. He noted that the agreement will go into effect on 10 September.

Israeli Delegates: Talks To Go Ahead as Planned

TA2808093995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0920 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Members of the Israeli delegation to the Elat talks told me unequivocally — you might say, officially — a few minutes ago that the talks will continue as planned: All the committees will begin discussions this afternoon, according to schedule, and will deal with the outstanding issues.

By the way, the unattributed report, which originated in Jerusalem and was carried by REUTER, said quite clearly that the talks will be suspended until the head of the Palestinian Security Service in Jericho is allowed to leave for the talks. The report was naturally referring to Jibril al-Rujub, who is a regular participant in these talks. Apparently, he has been unable to attend the talks because of the closure on Jericho. [passage omitted]

To repeat: I have been told by people in Elat that everything is ready for the resumption of the talks, and there is not the slightest sign that the talks are not going to take place. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Says Talks Suspended Over al-Rujub

TA2808100095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0933 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, member of the Palestinian Authority in charge of Jerusalem affairs, by Yoni Ben-Menahem during a news conference at Orient House on 28 August — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ben-Menahem] Did the Palestinians discontinue the Elat talks because Israel did not allow Jibril al-Rujub to leave Jericho?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. I think that while negotiations are under way with the Israeli side, Israel cannot prevent him from coming to the negotiating table.

[Ben-Menahem] What will be the fate of the talks in the wake of the closure on Jericho? What have you been telling the Israeli Government on the Jericho issue?

[Al-Husayni] We have been telling them that day after day, Israel arms the peace opponents with new ammunition and that day after day, it destroys another part of the structure of peace.

[Later in the same newsreel, Ben-Menahem reports on al-Husayni's remarks on the closure orders served to East Jerusalem institutions. In a recorded passage, al-Husayni says: "I know as well as you that Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, for instance, started the Palestinian television and radio organization in his Jerusalem office before the Palestinian forces arrived in Jericho and Gaza. From the day the work moved to other places, however, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash declared that he was moving his private office and that he was not doing this work in Jerusalem."

[Asked by Ben-Menahem whether the closure will affect the peace process, al-Husayni says: "Yes. I think it will be harmed. As I said, it will provide the peace opposition with ammunition."]

Quray' Confirms Talks Suspended

JN2808101195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Aug 95

[From the "With the Midday Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] A REUTER report a short while ago quoted a PLO official as saying that the Palestinians have decided to suspend the negotiations with Israel on the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles, which are taking place in Elat.

It was said that the reason for that decision was the continuation of the security siege imposed on the self-rule area in Jericho.

Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', head of the Palestinian delegation to the Elat negotiations, told our correspondent Yasir 'Atilah that the decision to suspend the negotiations was due to the Israeli measures, especially the security siege which prevented Jibril al-Rujub, head of Palestinian Preventive Security, traveling to the negotiations site.

Meanwhile, Israeli sources told our correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi that the Israeli side has not received any notice to this effect thus far, and said the negotiations will continue today within the framework of various committees.

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Algeria

Party Leaders, Others Announce Bid for Presidency

Former Prime Minister Malek

LD2608121995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ever since the official announcement that presidential elections are going to be held, they have become a genuine race. This morning, it was the turn of Redha Malek, the former head of government and member of the Higher Security Council, to announce his candidacy for the highest office in the land. Redha Malek made it clear that he will be representing neither the Republican National Alliance [of which he is founder and chairman] nor of any other party or group. In other words, he is standing as an independent. He made the announcement in a press briefing at the Hotel El Djazair.

[Begin Malek recording] Each of us is aware of the enormous difficulties that, in the current context, are implied by the approaching [election] date. But the firm willingness to close the chapter of the calamities which have plunged our country into sorrow for nearly four years must in the end overcome any other consideration. That, in any case, is the step I have chosen to take with my decision to stand for the presidency of the republic. It is without question a most hazardous challenge; nonetheless, having trust in the wisdom and the courage of our people is an act of faith which I wholly accept.

I will not be the candidate of any party or of any clique. What I believe to be of the utmost importance is the destiny of Algeria, the immediate as well as long-term future of a nation that only yesterday was miraculously saved from the wreckage of colonialism, and which today — by a kind of mockery of fate — faces an internal crisis that is as cruel as it is undeserved. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Further on Malek's Announcement

LD2608224795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Aug 95

[Statement by Reda Malek, former prime minister, on his candidacy for president at a press conference at El-Djazair Hotel on 26 August — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Praise be to God; peace and prayers be upon God's prophet. Ladies and gentlemen: We are only about three months away from the presidential elections. [passage omitted]

The roots of this crisis can be found especially in the political incompetence at the highest echelons of the state and in the clan mentality, nepotism, bribery, and the marginalization of those with potential, capabilities and competence.

Thus, the squandering of national resources and the dismantling of institutions led to the weakening of the state and shook its foundations. This contributed to the spread of the forces of criminality and obscurantism.

The killing of innocent people and the destruction of installations resulted undoubtedly from a large-scale conspiracy aimed at destroying our nation and distorting the image of our religion.

For the first time in Algeria there will be multiparty presidential elections. This is an important event which honors democracy in our country. However, as far as I am concerned, this should not, under any circumstances, turn into a trap for us to fall into. [passage omitted]

My first aim will be, as I ask for the people's support, to consolidate peace in society. First and foremost public order and tranquillity for the citizens have to be restored.

The majority of the Algerian people rejects terrorism as well as exploiting religion for suspicious purposes. We have to end the bloodshed and mobilize ourselves to heal the wounds and erase the scars. [passage omitted]

If there is a lesson to be learned from the current crisis it would be the rehabilitation of the moral element at the level of the management of state affairs and the behavior of its officials.

We have to defend those moralities which derive from the noble and ancient Islamic traditions our fathers and forefathers have followed and use them as guidance.

The crisis at the economic, social, and cultural level and at the level of identity that our country is facing and that our people endure lies in the high unemployment rate, a serious drop in purchasing power, and in the increasing and stifling difficulties in housing. It also lies in the worrying lack of investment, the serious impasse in which the Algerian schools and intellectuals find themselves, and in the future of our youth, which has been mortgaged.

In this deteriorating environment, we must add the tragic situation of our mothers, wives, and daughters. Therefore, it is high time we found the appropriate remedy and cure for all these problems and ills. We do not believe that the solution of the crisis depends only on a dialogue with the leadership of the political parties but also on the mobilization of all the dynamic forces of the nation which demonstrate their absolute rejection of terrorism and of the political system which generated it. These forces will also have to impose an authentic national and republican alternative.

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This is the significance I give to the forthcoming presidential elections which could constitute a prelude to a new era where peace, cohesion, and national solidarity will prevail and in which Algeria will recover its place among the nations. God's peace and mercy upon you. [end recording]

Solidarity Party Leader Bencherif

LD2608211395 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Aug 95

["Full statement" by Rabah Bencherif announcing his candidacy for president "in the name of the National Party for Solidarity and Development"; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] I am not a candidate in the name of a splinter group. As a candidate, I am a national figure supported by the both PNSD, which emerged at the Constantine Conference on 17 November 1994 and refused to accept my resignation as a leader of this party, and the Algerian Solidarity Front [FAS], which included citizens and patriots who believed in constitutional action, pluralism, democracy, the rotation of power through the free choice of the people, and the establishment of a state of law and order which upholds collective and individual freedoms and respects the national constants.

I believe that the presidential elections are the most proper and best method for extricating the country from its numerous crises. [passage omitted]

Arab Unity Party Leader Belhadj

LD2608225495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khelil Belhadj, leader of the Democratic Islamic Arab Unity Party and member of the Transitional National Council, has declared his intention to stand in the forthcoming presidential elections.

Belhadj has university degrees in political science, law, and history.

NMND's Akkif Abderrahmane

LD2608223795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Aug 95

[Announcement by Akkif Abderrhmane of the National Movement for Nature and Development; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Honorable gentlemen, we welcome you at this meeting, may God's peace and mercy be with you.

Due to the serious and terrible deterioration of the situation in Algeria in all social, economic, and political fields, the time has come for all the faithful sons of our wounded nation to increase efforts, put Algeria above any other considerations, and overcome all the narrow calculations that only serve personal interests or some quarters or any course which clashes with the aspirations of our homeland. The National Movement for Nature and Development [NMND] consecrates its efforts for the consolidation of bases of democracy. [passage omitted]

The candidacy of Akkif Abderrahmane, chairman of the National Movement for Nature and Development, for the presidential election is been warranted by higher national interests and the defense of its representatives and sanctities for which the movement has sacrificed the best people of this homeland. [passage omitted]

National Association Leader Benhadid

LD2708173095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1700 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a new candidate for the presidential elections. He is Abdelmadjid Benhadid, chairman of the Algerian National Association for the Promotion of Sport, Cultural and Scientific Activities, and International Exchanges.

Mr Benhadid, who announced his decision in a statement made public today Sunday, called on the Algerian youth to help him obtain the 75,000 signatures [required by the electoral law].

Wages To Increase by 10% From 1 Sep

LD2608195595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] School grants will be distributed as of the first half of September for civil servants and workers in the economic public and private sectors who have schoolchildren.

The workers concerned should approach their employers and the National Social Welfare Fund to speed up the process. The grants will be 400 Algerian dinars per child.

In another development, wages will be increased by 10 percent as of 1 September, said a statement issued today by the office of the budget minister delegate.

Security Forces Kill 25 'Terrorists'

LD2708191295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement released by the security services today said that the security forces

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have killed 25 terrorists in Algiers, Sidi Bel Abbes, Medea, Msila, Boumerdes, Laghouat, Bouira, Batna, and Annaba. The statement added that the security forces managed to recover a quantity of weapons and ammunition during these operations.

Egypt

AL-HAYAH Interviews Mubarak on Saddam, Region

NC2508180595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1618 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 25 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that no one can rob Egypt's sovereignty because Egypt has resources, traditions, history, intellectuals, scientists, writers, poets, and learned men. Egypt also has a huge population, scientific achievements, and cultural heritage. He said that my only ambition is to see my country and its people live, produce, and find a solution to the unemployment problem. He added: During my years in office we have accommodated 18 million people, that is the population increase in 14 years. He stressed that this is an Egyptian miracle. Despite this, he said, the unemployment rate did not exceed 1.5 million, comparable to other advanced countries. This came in an interview President Mubarak granted to the London-based Arabic newspaper AL-HAYAH to be published in its Saturday, [26 August] edition. In his interview, Mubarak discusses a number of Arab, regional, and international issues as well as political, economic, and party actions.

Responding to a question on the defection of General Husayn Kamil, his brother Saddam Kamil, and the Iraqi president's daughters Raghad and Rana, President Mubarak said that the operation was strange. He wondered how this group managed to travel 500 km to Jordan without anyone knowing. He reaffirmed that the change of any president is the affair of his people. He said: I absolutely do not agree to any force going to remove a head of state. He noted that when U.S. President George Bush was in power there were reports about American entry into Iraq to topple Saddam. I told President Bush: "Beware, I will condemn and reject such a measure because its consequences in the region would be horrific."

President Mubarak said that he told King Husayn during their recent meeting that "he agrees with Saddam Husayn coming to reside in Egypt if this would solve the problem of the Iraqi people."

In a response to a question on his stance if Husayn Kamil and his group request permission to come to Egypt, President Mubarak said that Egypt accepts any Arab political refugee provided that he does not engage in politics.

Replying to a question of if King Husayn asked him for any specific things regarding Iraq, President Mubarak answered in the negative. He said that he asked King Husayn about Iraq and that the latter told him that the situation is very difficult. President Mubarak said that "he proposed that if President Saddam should come to us, I will accept him as a political refugee and as a solution to the problem of the Iraqi people." President Mubarak said that King Husayn believes that Saddam Husayn is not of this kind of person. President Mubarak said: I am putting forward a proposal that I had thought of before Husayn Kamil went to Jordan. I still cling to my word if Saddam Husayn's asylum to Egypt will solve the problem instead of having bloodshed. Iraq's history witnessed other bloodbaths and this is the horror that now exists.

Answering a question on whether things will become easier after Husayn Kamil's defection and exposure of the Iraqi military programs, President Mubarak said: This is a theatrical piece. The existence of chemical and biological weapons was always known. However, I clearly say that the nuclear program was not known. When I went to Baghdad to attend the Arab summit in May of 1990, I gave a press statement in which I called for turning the Middle East into a region free of weapons of mass destruction. President Saddam Husayn agreed with me on this issue. However, when during the summit we tried to formulate a paragraph about this issue, the Iraqi president refused to do so.

I asked him for the reasons behind his refusal—and Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid was with me at that time—and he answered something to the effect that this means we would have to sit down with Israel. I did not know then that he had nuclear weapons.

With regard to Egyptian-Jordanian relations, President Mubarak said that they are good and normal. King Husayn's visit to Alexandria was a courtesy visit, he said, and they spoke about Iraq and the situation in the Arab world. Mubarak said: I believe that the issue needs time. We are trying to resolve Arab differences, but sometimes the wound is deep and painful, which means that the matter takes a long time before it is resolved.

On his excellency's evaluation of the results of the investigations into the attempt to assassinate him in Addis Ababa, President Mubarak said that investigations continue. Ethiopia has asked Sudan to hand over some of the individuals who took part in this attempt, but the request is being ignored in Sudan. The Sudanese are trying to give the impression that they are innocent of the operation, which they are not. We know this because

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the five who were arrested here spoke about training camps in Sudan, their locations, who does the training, and what al-Turabi is scheming.

He said: We will leave Ethiopia be until the investigations end because we do not wish to create any sensitivities. With regard to Sudan, a Sudanese official has already been here and informed us that they do not have any terrorists or wanted defendants.

The president added: We know the terrorists who are living in Sudan. He noted that Sudan used to shelter the international terrorist Carlos the jackal, who was handed over to France.

President Mubarak warned Sudan's regime of the repercussions of all these practices and said that all options are open. If we are forced to make a difficult decision to protect the country, we will take any steps necessary.

President Mubarak pointed out that there are 17 regions in Sudan which are being used to train terrorists. In Khartoum, these places are called farms.

He said that al-Turabi asked the state of Benin for 48 students whom he will train in agriculture. He is also ready to accept 12 students at universities. Officials in Benin were suspicious of the Sudanese offer, and when they asked us we told them that these students will return to Benin as 12 extremist leaders.

President Mubarak mentioned that Egypt informed countries that are protecting terrorists and stressed to them that these terrorists will form cells and eventually turn against that country. He said that this happened in Denmark and extremists planning to carry out explosions were arrested.

The president indicated his readiness to implement the law set by U.S. President Bill Clinton's Administration to combat terrorism as an emergency law. He said that the American law gives the police wide-ranging powers to combat terrorism as it monitors and records movements, and even takes decisions away from the supervision of the court. A person can be deported from the country without a trial.

Asked what Egypt wants from Sudan to turn over a new leaf in the two's relations, President Mubarak said: I do not trust the existing regime in Sudan. They have frequently lied to us. They must hand over the terrorists living in their country.

The president said that despite the positions of the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime, Egypt is always against attempts to list Sudan among the countries that sponsor terrorism, and is against any draft resolution imposing an embargo on Sudan. This position, he said, comes from Egypts concern about the security and safety of the Sudanese people, who are suffering immensely under the yoke of the ruling regime.

The president disclosed that complete confessions regarding those involved in the Addis Ababa incident are available, but they have not been published so as not to affect the investigations.

On claims that he personally participated in quelling the incidents in Jazirat Aba in 1971, when the al-Mahdi group rebelled against the republican regime in Sudan and tried to declare the island an independent entity, President Mubarak said: Those who say I took part in such an act are insane. These claims are always made whenever I announce my concern for the Sudanese people.

He added: I was in Sudan at the time of the sedition; I was chief of staff of the Egyptian Air Force. President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir had sent me on a consultation mission. The Sudanese officials asked that we help them quell the sedition in the island. I categorically refused and said that we could not possibly attack the Sudanese people. I told them: I am the chief of staff of the Egyptian Air Force, and no Egyptian force will join you in this act because it would be a black mark in its history and a dark spot in Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

The president added: Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi knows full well what I am saying. Egypt fired not a single shot in Sudan or in Jazirat Aba.

The president asked: If the claims were true, would the Sudanese regime officials remain silent or reluctant to provide evidence? They are laying in wait for us and looking for anything to condemn us, so why would they hesitate to use this against us?

President Mubarak also discussed Lieutenant Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir's claims that Egypt tried to impose certain options or people on the Sudanese regime. He said: The fact is that we never imposed on Sudan to make a specific decision. On the contrary, they always asked for our advice and we had to respond to avoid offense.

He added: I remember that Major Gen. al-Zubayr Salih, the first deputy prime minister and security chief in the first government of the National Salvation Revolution, came to me early after the current regime assumed power. The real face of the new movement had not yet appeared. I told him that world and African heads of state were asking me about the inclinations of the new regime and pointing out that the National Islamic Front was trying to infiltrate and dominate the government. But I was always defending the regime, saying: O people, these [Sudan's new leaders] are very moderate people. I advised al-Zubayr that the Sudanese regime

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form groups of various political elements to work with it so as not to be dominated by a certain group. I advised him that these include al-Mahdi, al-Mirghani, al-Ansar, and all other groups.

President Mubarak said: I advised Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr to meet with some other Egyptian officials, who repeated to him the same ideas. They asked him to choose the names he wanted because he had more knowledge about the political figures in Sudan. I was surprised when al-Zubayr came back to tell me that some people were trying to impose a certain course on him. I confirmed to him that this was untrue and that what was put forward to him were mere proposals and that it was not necessary to accept them. President Mubarak continued in response to Gen. al-Bashir, saying: "Out of concern, I only wanted him to form a group of the Unionist Democratic Party, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Party, and the leftists so that it would not be dominated by a single character. This is because every time I visited an African country or received an African head of state, I heard complaints about this Sudanese regime, which I defended." He said that the bad image of the Sudanese regime had begun to take shape in African and Arab countries to the point that some of them told us that as we supported it at the beginning, so we must get rid of it. As a matter of fact, we did not bring this Sudanese regime to power and really had nothing to do with its advent. But as soon as it took power, it naturally notified Egypt.

Discussing Egyptian-Libyan relations, President Mubarak stressed that Egypt's relations with Libya changed Libya to a better course, contrary to what a hostile attitude would have done, as certain parties demand. Our relations with Libya made easier our role in reaching an understanding with Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on numerous international issues. He noted that on the political level, Libya is now better than at any time before. He stressed that compliance with the UN resolutions does not mean that we should antagonize our neighbors.

Discussing his meeting with Algerian President Zeroual twice in the recent past, President Mubarak said President Zeroual visited for one night to return a visit and then he came to visit me after the Addis Ababa incident to congratulate me on my safety.

Responding to a question on Egypt's following up on the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, President Mubarak said that there are some problems but they will inevitably be solved. He noted that the differences currently focus on the issue of the early-warning system because the views of both countries differ on this issue. He pointed out that any negotiations must pass through difficult stages, noting the second stage of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and the final stage when both parties had lengthy negotiations over Taba, which the Israelis tried to take in return for their withdrawal from our territories.

Asked if Egyptian-Israeli relations have improved after their differences over the nuclear issue and whether there have been new contacts, President Mubarak said differences over the nuclear issue still exist but, we are waiting for the end of the peace process to raise it again. It is unreasonable to have a nuclear state in the region without our having a certain capability. He noted that the nuclear issue has been raised since the Camp David negotiations and is not new. The issue came to light again when the time came for the renewal of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]. We had to join the NPT, but there is room for new understanding after the peace process is completed.

In response to a question on the retreat in the wave of Arab-Israeli normalization of relations, President Mubarak said: We have signed a peace agreement with Israel, but we will not dictate on anyone to normalize or not normalize relations with it. There is a peace agreement between us, but we will not force anyone to deal with Israel nor will we prevent anyone from dealing with it. He noted that the events that the region has witnessed since the 1948 war have left deep scars. To remove all this hatred resulting from these wars we need time. The people have grown used to us saying "the Israeli enemy" for approximately 40 years, so how can we tell the people in one day that "everything is over and we are now in love." The issue needs patience. The Israelis are blaming us saying that normalization with Jordan, which signed a peace agreement with Israel only one year ago, is proceeding faster than with us. I responded that Jordan is a country of three million people whereas we have 60 million people and we are a big country.

Answering a question on whether Egypt will take action to start a court case or trial against those involved in the massacre of Egyptian prisoners of war in 1956 and 1967, President Mubarak said: We are discussing this issue with the Israelis. They are the ones who publicized it. We did not know anything about it before. We have asked them for information because we would like to understand the matter better. In my meeting a few days ago with the students of Alexandria University, I said that war crimes are not subject to a statute of limitations. The Third Geneva Convention on POW's stipulates that these crimes are not subject to any statute of limitations at all. We do not want to create a problem between our two countries, but we want an investigation and we want those who made mistakes to be taken to account for their mistakes.

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He said: We insist on an investigation and want all those involved to be taken to account. We want measures to be taken against them. He pointed out that Israel has so far not responded to Egypt's request.

On whether the request for an investigation will take place as a result of presidential action on his part, or whether it will take place on the level of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, President Mubarak said that the Foreign Ministry implements the state policy and the directives issued to it. It does not have an independent decision making ability. Many Egyptian groups have been studying this issue for two days and have reached a conclusion which matches the conclusions I heard from experts and politicians. Therefore, I have asked the foreign minister to take action within this framework.

Regarding what is being published abroad, particularly in the U.S. press, about corruption in Egypt, President Husni Mubarak said that corruption issues are present everywhere in the world. We do not ignore a single corruption case. The state follows every small or large case. There is corruption in all countries, but the spotlight is on Egypt. Some of those who talk about corruption do so to cover up for themselves.

President Mubarak affirmed that corruption in Egypt is on a very small scale, a much smaller scale than the corruption others have. He asks: Is there a country without corruption? One of the attributes of democracy is that it does not allow anyone to behave as he pleases without someone to watch him or take him to account. But sometimes, the press exaggerate some matters that might not be true and that harm the reputation of people.

About conjectures regarding changes in some positions in Egypt, President Mubarak said: I wish to make a final statement on the subject of changes. King Fu'ad sat on the throne of Egypt for 11 years and changed 16 cabinets during the 11 years. This means that no single cabinet during his reign, on average, finished one year.

Then King Faruq took the throne in Egypt for 16 years during which he changed 24 cabinets. In other words, the average age of one cabinet during his time was approximately six months.

The president then wonders how a cabinet of this age could plan something or try to implement it. Every cabinet would come to power and dismiss the employees of the former cabinet and appoint its own employees and administrative officials. One stage would be for the Wafdists, the other for the followers of Sa'd Zaghlul, and so on. President 'Abd-al-Nasir had 13 cabinets and al-Sadat had around 15 cabinets.

He says: As for me, my style is that change should take place within the narrowest framework possible to preserve continuity of action.

Answering a question on demands by some sides to cancel the emergency law, President Mubarak said in his interview with AL-HAYAH newspaper: We protect the people through the emergency law. The evidence is that when this law was presented before the People's Assembly, 99 percent of the deputies approve it.

Regarding the law on the freedom of publication, the president said: If you want democracy, then there are laws governing it. Take your freedom, but do not hurt others. Take your rights, but you have duties and responsibilities in return.

He went on: Political education is supposed to be the duty of the parties, but every party finds it enough to have a newspaper. I do not want to delve into further details about this.

The president asked all the parties to pay attention to political education and national and democratic values.

On a question as to whether those not represented by legitimate political parties will be allowed to take part in the next parliamentary elections, President Mubarak said: Elections will be on an individual ticket basis. Whoever wishes to run in the elections in his personal name is welcome to do so. And if some legal groups wish to run in the elections in the name of legal parties, then they are also welcome to do so.

The expression 'illegitimate' means that these groups are violating the law. I am a president who respects the law and Constitution because they are above all else.

Dailies Praise Mubarak Statement on Iraq

NC2608092895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0520 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—Cairo newspapers today highlight President Mubarak's statement to the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH in which he declared that he agrees that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn should come to Egypt if this would solve the problem of the Iraqi people and spare them a bloodbath. AL-AHRAM banner headline reads: "Mubarak: I Agree That Saddam Husayn Should Come To Reside in Egypt If This Would Solve the Problem of the Iraqi People." The Weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM headline reads: "We Accept Saddam as a Political Refugee in Egypt." The headline of AL-JUMHURIYAH: In an Important Statement to the London-Based Newspaper, Egypt Accepts Saddam's Asylum if This Would Solve the Problem of the

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Iraqi People. Another headline reads: "Iraq Asks Our Help To Lift the Embargo Imposed on It."

An AL-AHRAM editorial comments on President Mubarak's statement on Iraq under the title "To Confirm the Truth." AL-AHRAM says that the important statement President Mubarak made to journalists on Thursday [25 August] at the Presidential Palace is a true expression of the reality of the issues he broached. The paper notes his remark that Iraq is absolutely not in a position to consider embarking on military action anywhere and any reports to the contrary are mere nonsense. The paper says that President Mubarak's remarks confirm the truth regarding reports in the past few days that Iraq threatens neighboring Arab countries, including Jordan, which received the Iraqi defectors, notably General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, who was the second in command in Iraq.

AL-AHRAM says that President Mubarak was right when he stressed that the fall or survival of any political regime must be left to the people themselves to decide, a valid international principle which is indispensable for world stability. It also agreed with his remark that any regime will not survive if the people do not want it. The paper points out that President Mubarak's candid statement is very important because it calms the region and alleviates the tension that has recently gripped it following the defection of Gen. Husayn Kamil and his brother, who leads the Iraqi president's personal guards, and Saddam's two daughters. The paper says that this statement prepares the Arab and international arenas for the powerful trend that has emerged within the UN committee tasked with supervising the Iraqi arms program. Committee chairman Rolf Ekeus stressed that Iraq has offered important information on its arms activities and that this information may help lift the economic sanctions imposed on it. Concluding, the paper says that there is no doubt that the Arab peoples and governments welcome any development that may help achieve Arab reconciliation and serve the Arab nation's causes and progress.

In his daily column in AL-AHRAM, Anis Mansur says that Egypt is watching developments and its political and military stance on Saddam Husayn is well known. Egypt will not interfere in Iraq and will leave the Iraqi people alone to choose their rulers and who will take them to heaven or hell. He says that the world envies Iraq's great resources of which it is unaware—oil, fertile soil, water, and manpower. Saddam turned all these resources into arms to destroy the Middle East but he devastated Iraq. Saddam and his son are to blame for this. Mockingly, Mansur says: The Americans often told us that the Marxist Leninist Mengistu was a U.S. agent but we did not believe them. He was one of their most important men and they brought him out of the country safe and sound and with honor, preceded by millions of people and 20 beautiful girls, to palaces in Kenya. This was the price they paid for the emigration of the Falasha Jews. Concluding, Mansur says: "We will soon see festivities with singing and dancing explaining the chapters of the new Middle East play."

In his daily column in AL-JUMHURIYAH, Samir Rajab, the paper's chairman of the board, says that unlike other world leaders, President Mubarak was careful to emphasize the principle of noninterference in the affairs of others, including Iraq. Mubarak did not deviate from this principle even during the most violent moments of the Gulf crisis when the U.S. forces were on their way to Baghdad. He stressed that all forces must reconsider their calculations regarding Iraq, particularly after President Mubarak drew the world's attention to the fact that Iraq's military capabilities make the mere idea of invading a neighboring country impossible.

More on Reaction to Mubarak's Remarks

NC2708061895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0520 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM says that in his statements yesterday President Husni Mubarak crossed the t's and dotted the i's with regard to several Arab, regional, and international issues. The paper adds that the president's remarks truly reflect the principled stance of Egyptian foreign policy.

In a commentary today, Sunday [27 August], AL-AHRAM stresses that Egypt's principles are topped by the principle of noninterference in the domestic affairs of states. And on the basis of this principle, President Mubarak affirmed that the Iraqi regime's crisis is an internal issue which concerns the Iraqi people.

The paper adds that Egypt's respect of the principle of noninterference in the domestic affairs of states constitutes a pattern for civilized behavior, whether in Arab relations in particular or on the international level in general.

AL-AHRAM concludes its comment by noting that Egypt urges all countries to abide by and augment this principle. The paper also refers to the code of honor advocated by President Mubarak. AL-AHRAM points out that if the Sudanese regime abides by such principles it will then be possible to talk about Arab reconciliation.

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Mubarak Cited on Arming Bosnia, Elections, Reform

NC2708210895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has underlined the need to find a political solution to the Bosnian crisis to prevent further bloodshed. He called on the world community to act in unison and urgently do its utmost so that the Bosnian people can exercise their legitimate rights.

In statements to MAYU, the mouthpiece of the ruling National Democratic Party, to be published tomorrow, President Mubarak drew attention to an important fact: It is wrong to imagine that our call for a political solution means calling on Bosnia to give up its rights or territorial sovereignty. He added: We demand the world community shoulder its responsibility to protect the Bosnian people from annihilation, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. If this is not possible, Bosnia must obtain the necessary weapons to defend itself and enhance its ability to protect its land and maintain its sovereignty, President Mubarak said.

President Mubarak remarked that it was the international community that helped deprive Bosnia of the right to the necessary weapons to repel aggression, pointing out that even if the arms embargo is lifted it will be too late.

The president said: I reiterate that if a political solution does not work, Bosnia must armed sufficiently to deter aggression. He asserted that it is not permissible to supply one party, the Serbs, with all types of weapons while leaving the other party "unarmed."

In his statements, Mubarak touches on a number of domestic issues, including the progress of economic reform and the coming elections to the People's Assembly. Touching on the elections, President Mubarak said that applying the individual ticket system provides more opportunity for popular involvement. He emphasized that every citizen has an opportunity to run and there is no danger to any candidate under the law and the Constitution. He also assured that the elections will be clean and free.

As for the economic reform policy in Egypt, President Mubarak said that the it is proceeding with firm steps. If it were not for that program, he said, we could not have advanced one step or met our needs from abroad.

The president said that if it were not for the stability we established we could not have made this breakthrough in renovating our infrastructure.

Foreign Minister Musa Returns From Jordan

NC2608171595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1628 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Amman this evening following a visit of several hours to Jordan.

On his return, Musa stated that he had delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to King Husayn of Jordan dealing with developments in the Arab region, the peace process, and Egyptian-Jordanian ties.

He added that he and Jordanian Prime Minister Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti discussed issues of interest to both countries, particularly Arab developments, the peace process, and the preparations for Amman's economic summit, which is scheduled for October.

Musa described his talks in Jordan as constructive. He said they were part of the ongoing consultations and coordination between the two countries. He said that he will present a full report to President Mubarak on his meeting with King Husayn and the results of his talks in Cairo.

Al-Baz: Israel Responsible for POW's Deaths

NC2708091395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has held the present Israeli Government fully responsible for the killing of the Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars, in accordance with the well-known political norms. He demanded that Israel submit an official apology for everything committed against the Egyptian people.

In exclusive statements to the weekly magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF, to be published tomorrow, Monday [28 August], Dr. al-Baz maintained that Egypt has not yet requested any international body to investigate the killing of the Egyptian POW's by the Israelis. He said that the first step is to pressure Israel to make it conduct investigations of the culprits of these crimes so that the facts will be fully recorded, particularly since the Israeli side remains the one which possesses the information on those who committed such grotesque crimes.

Dr. al-Baz pointed out that the gist of Egypt's demands is to conduct investigations into this case with the aim of gathering complete facts, ensuring that such crimes

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will never recur under any circumstances, and obtaining fair indemnity for the families of the Egyptian POW's.

Government's Handling of POW Issue Criticized

NC2808112595 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
24 Aug 95 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jamal Badawi: "The Massacre of Egyptian Dignity!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Why do we blame the Israeli war criminals who killed Egyptian prisoners and not those who sent our sons to the massacre, threw them into the incinerator, and then left them under the open sky without cover to organize their withdrawal, if there was really a need for a withdrawal?

Why do we blame the butcher and absolve the successive Egyptian Governments which completely ignored this massacre and imposed a blackout on it, despite the presence of eyewitnesses from Sinai? The massacre remained secret until it was disclosed by an Israeli writer.

Did the Egyptian Governments—responsible for the security and safety of their nationals—count the prisoners and the missing to establish their fate? Did they examine their bodies to know the way they died? Israeli documents have revealed that the war criminals assembled civilian prisoners, ordered them to dig their own graves, opened fire on them, and covered the dead bodies with sand. Did a single Egyptian Government examine these mass graves? Or did our brilliant governments remain ignorant about the fate of its sons until a courageous Israeli writer volunteered to reveal this scandal?

The Israelis do not give up the search for a finger lost from the body of a dead Jew. They roam the Sinai desert for the lost limb until they find it and bury it with the corpse amid solemn ceremonies and rites. They do this because the Israeli citizen is dear to his government and people. The Israeli Government is prepared to launch a holy war if one Jew is insulted anywhere in the world. Imagine the Israeli reaction if things were opposed and documents reveal that the Egyptian Army killed unarmed Israeli prisoners. Imagine what the United States, Russia, Europe, the United Nations, the Security Council, and the human rights organizations would do if the Egyptians deprived the Israeli prisoners of water and forced them to dig their own graves with their bare hands.

The world respects the strong even if he is unjust and despises the weak even if he is oppressed.

The whole world knows the humiliation the Egyptian citizen receives from his government. It is therefore natural that he is insulted by others.

The Egyptian citizen is insulted in his country, an outcast in the eyes of his government, and despised in the eyes of the authorities. So why should we blame others if they treat us in the same vein?

Not a day passes without us hearing about Egyptian citizens abroad being subjected to insults. We hear from our government words of condolences and calls for patience and endurance on the pretext that we are obliged to look for the loaf of bread. It is a poor justification to accept humiliation. It is the duty of governments to defend their sons, raise their morale, encourage them to adhere to national dignity, and reject insults of any kind. It is the duty of our government to let the world feel that the Egyptian citizen has relatives, kin, friends, and a government that protects him from injustice and oppression.

What did our government do regarding the Israeli war crimes against Egyptian prisoners in the 1956 and 1967 wars? All it did was send a letter to the Israeli Government "asking" about the truth of what was published and asking it to carry out an "investigation" into the incident.

How happy we are with the question, and how miserable we are with the anticipated reply?

Israel will say that what happened was committed by "savage" individuals and that it will box their ears and ask them not to repeat such a thing. It is a very logical answer to a very polite question. The crime will be recorded against an unknown person.

What concerns us is the state's conception of what happened and its stand on this crime which has moved the conscience of mankind. The president commented on this issue in his speech to university students in Alexandria the day before yesterday. He said: "We do not want a problem between the two countries." He described the crime as "mistakes of individuals."

I tell the president: Why shouldn't a problem be created between Egypt and Israel over this abominable crime? Is there something uglier and more lowly than what happened to our sons in the Sinai desert? What is wrong if a problem is created between us and them in which we restore a bit of our squandered dignity and oblige Israel to pay reparations to the families of those martyrs, similar to the reparations Israel received from Germany for the victims of the Nazi crimes. The crimes committed by Israel during the wars are not "mistakes of individuals," but a literal application of Israel's hostile policy against mankind. The best proof is that these "individuals" have not been tried or questioned, but have climbed to the highest posts and become leaders.

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The massacre of the Egyptian prisoners must not pass without accountability, and Israel must not escape from shouldering full responsibility. Only then will the souls of our martyrs rest in peace and Egyptians rest assured that they have a government.

Ethiopia Reportedly Seeks 'Terrorist' Extradition

NC2608125295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Addis Ababa, 26 Aug (MENA)—A diplomatic source in Addis Ababa today revealed that Ethiopia is making diplomatic contacts with a neighboring state to which one of the terrorists who took part in the assault against President Husni Mubarak's motorcade near the Addis Ababa airport on 26 June had escaped. These contacts seek to persuade this state to hand over the escaped terrorist.

The diplomatic source added that the contacts also involve two terrorists who commanded and planned the assault from within the neighboring state. Contacts seek their extradition.

The Ethiopian authorities have almost concluded the interrogation of terrorists who were arrested recently to prepare for the trial of the persons involved in the aborted attempt.

According to the Ethiopian security authorities, 11 terrorists were involved in planning and carrying out the attack. They include two people who planned and commanded the operation from abroad and nine who carried it out. One of the nine escaped to Sudan, five were killed, and three were arrested.

Al-Alfi Alleges MB-NIF Contacts, Coordination

NC2708203095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 27 Aug (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has revealed that the international organization of the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] has contacts and coordination the al-Turabi-led National Islamic Front [NIF] in Sudan and with terrorist groups.

The interior minister pointed out that these contacts aim to unite the terrorist groups in Egypt and other Arab states behind a scheme to undermine the legitimate regimes in these states. In an interview with the London-based AL-HAYAH newspaper, to be published tomorrow, Monday [28 August], Al-Alfi says that there is enough evidence to prove that the Sudanese regime and al-Turabi's front are directly supporting terrorism. Moreover, he said that confessions by recently arrested terrorists, particularly a group apprehended in Aswan last June, show that the group received training at a farm in Sudan in preparing magnetic circuits for explosive charges and in forging official documents.

He added that Sudan has become the most dangerous center of terrorist activity at the present time, pointing out that there are various forms of coordination between members of the outlawed MB in Egypt and al-Turabi's front in Sudan.

The interior minister added that reports about differences between the MB and al-Turabi's front concern differences over some details that do not affect the agreed upon goals and objectives.

Minister al-Alfi said that the MB members who were arrested recently were caught in possession of organizational correspondence in this context, in addition to messages, bulletins, and booklets dealing with the thoughts and activity of an association called the "Muslim Youth Association" in the United States, an MB organization cofounded by an Egyptian MB leader during his stay in the United States in the 1980's.

The interior minister explained that monitoring of the meetings of the international MB Organization abroad revealed that some terrorist leaders reside in European countries. He added that leading MB figure Ahmad al-Malat was charged with the task of coordination before he passed away recently.

Al-Alfi added that then the job was later entrusted last July to a member of the so-called Shura Council of the dissolved MB. That member made contacts in that context with many countries, including Afghanistan and Sudan.

He added that one of the terrorists who were arrested in Aswan in June gave a detailed description of the farm where the members of the arrested group were trained. He confirmed that the Sudanese regime's fostering of terrorism is not limited to training; it extends to coordination among terrorist groups, a role undertaken by al-Turabi and his aides.

The interior minister added that one of those arrested in case of the returnees from Afghanistan and Sudan, Case No. 234 of 1995, gave details of how al-Turabi coordinates between terrorist organizations. The defendant pointed out that al-Turabi had asked the leaders of al-Jihad and the Islamic Group to bury their differences and cooperate after the blows the security forces dealt to members of both organizations in Egypt. That was during al-Turabi's meeting with the leaders of the two organizations during of the third session of the Islamic Arab Popular Congress, which he chairs.

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Al-Alfi said that there is evidence that this meeting was the starting point for a series of contacts that culminated in an agreement between the two organizations to unite their activities for the first time since 1983 and to set up a joint command.

The interior minister pointed out that the Egyptian security agencies are in possession of important details concerning the contacts held abroad, with al-Turabi's sponsorship, by the leaders of the two organizations, including Ayman al-Zawahiri, Mustafa Hamzah, Rifa'i Ahmad Taha, Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, and other fugitive terrorists.

Touching on the next People's Assembly elections, Minister al-Alfi said that some defeated candidates often allege that the elections are rigged rather than admitting defeat and trying to find out the real reasons why voters did not vote for them. They hope to win voters' sympathy or to justify their failure in advance, before the results reveal that the people reject them, he remarked.

The interior minister added: It seems that this is what the Muslim Brothers are doing by falsely alleging that the arrests of some MB members who were involved in hostile schemes are linked to the elections.

I do not want to get into the details of that scheme right now, since there are investigations being conducted by the Supreme State Security Prosecution, he said; adding: Everybody, including those who claim that there is a connection between the arrests and the upcoming elections, know very well that the arrests were legal and done with a warrant issued by the state security prosecution in Case No. 136 of 1990.

Security Foils New 'Terrorist' Organization Scheme

NC2708203495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reports that the Egyptian security organs have foiled a new terrorist scheme to carry out several sabotage operations against vital establishments, assassinate politicians and security leaders, and conduct armed robberies against jewelry shops and churches in six governorates.

The paper adds in its issue tomorrow, Monday [28 August], that six arms dealers were arrested in Asyut, Upper Egypt, for selling arms and explosives to the members of the terrorist group, affiliated with the so-called Islamic Group, for use in their sabotage schemes.

AL-AHRAM notes that the public attorney of the State Security Prosecution ordered that the arrested terrorists be remanded in custody for 15 days pending investigation. He accused them of instigating the obstruction of the law and the Constitution, preventing state institutions from performing their duty, conspiring to commit premeditated murder and sabotage, possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition for the purpose of activities that disturb the public peace, and carrying forged official documents.

The newspaper cites security sources as saying that the successful penetration of terrorist groups has resulted in detecting a new terrorist group of 26 members. Sixteen of those have been arrested, while the remaining 10 are still at large.

AL-AHRAM adds that the group is led by 'Uthman 'Awad Hijazi, a former assistant of dead terrorist leader Tal'at Yasin Hammam. The arrested terrorists made interesting confessions during interrogation.

Culture Minister Bans Play Critical of Regime

NC2808114995 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The day before yesterday the government issued a decision banning the play "A Constitution, Gentlemen," on the pretext that it undermines the prestige of the state and the regime. Culture Minister Faruq Husni justified the decision on the grounds that characters in the play attack government leaders and officials. Units from the Central Security Forces surrounded the al-Fann Theater on Ramses Street to prevent the play's performance.

The play deals with the problems of an Egyptian Constitution drawn up during the socialist era. The play calls for amending and changing the Constitution in view of its many shortcomings and loopholes. The play also deals with the emergency law, the extraordinary measures which restrict freedoms, and the law on press freedom. The play discusses high prices which burden citizens and veil unemployment. It also criticizes the government's handling of problems and troubles citizens face.

The play revolves around citizen Mahmud 'Atris al-Masri, who wants to run as a candidate for president of the republic. He faces misfortunes and disasters caused by the government as a punishment for his intention to run for this post, which he is allowed to do according to the law and the Constitution. The various state departments fabricate accusations against this citizen. Actor Ahmad Budayr plays the role of the presidential candidate. The play is by well-known director Jalal al-Sharqawi, who has expressed his strong resentment of the decision to ban the it.

[Paris AFP in English at 1915 GMT on 26 August, in a Cairo-datelined report, adds the following: "Egyptian

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Culture Minister Faruq Husni on Saturday [26 August] lifted a ban he imposed on an antigovernment play after the director agreed to stick to a version authorized by the censor, sources close to the ministry said.

["Jalal al-Sharqawi, the director of a 'A Constitution, Gentlemen,' agreed in writing to abide by the censor's conditions after the play was banned on Wednesday, the same sources said."]

Libya

King Husayn Seen Bowing to U.S. Pressure Over Iraq

LD2608131395 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 26 Aug (JANA) — In a speech carried by the Jordanian media, King Husayn of Jordan recalled the days when his family ruled Iraq. He spoke about the situation of Iraq at that time, when he said that he personally was a deputy of Faysal II, the king of Iraq, and his heir to the rule of the two countries when the Hashimite family ruled both Jordan and Iraq.

King Husayn of Jordan compared the state of Iraq at that time with what it is currently experiencing, and called upon Iraq, which is currently facing an embargo, to carry out the demands of the Western states, which threatens it with all the Security Council resolutions issued against it. He said that the Western states will continue to make this demand, which he describes as a serious action, and that they will not lift the embargo on Iraq until, without exception, it provides all its weapons programs and everything demanded by the Western states in the resolutions.

King Husayn of Jordan announced that his country will look for alternative sources for the oil which Iraq used to supply.

In his speech he referred to the announcement by Husayn Kamil, the former Iraqi industry minister, to the effect that Iraq was on the point of launching attacks on Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, had it not been for the swift Arab and international reaction to that. He expressed his conviction that merely thinking in this direction and the possibility of carrying it out would have constituted a disaster.

These statements by King Husayn of Jordan, which coincide with intensive U.S. and Western movements, the military exercises which U.S. forces are holding in Jordan and Kuwait, and the visit of the U.S. assistant secretary of state for the region, seek to find justification for the U.S. and Western commotion in the Arab region, and to assist them in massing more forces, military equipment, and aircraft carriers, with the aim of reoccupying the Arab homeland and threatening Arab national security.

King Husayn of Jordan's announcement that he will search for alternatives to the oil supplied by Iraq also comes in the wake of the pressures exerted by America through its envoy to the area. Media reports reveal that America intends to force Jordan to abandon the Iraqi oil and to have Kuwaiti and Saudi oil instead.

King Husayn's speech in these circumstances about the period of the Hashimite family rule in Iraq reflects the arrangements which America is trying to impose on the Arab area, according to a colonialist scheme based on reviving old feuds and conflicts, similar to another scheme revealed by confidential reports aiming at bringing the Hejaz area back under the rule of the Hashimite family in Jordan.

King Husayn of Jordan's speech about the possibility of Iraq invading Kuwait and Saudi Arabia comes at the time when a number of political officials and analysts have stressed that Iraq, in its current circumstances, does not intend or has the capability of attacking anybody.

Radio Assails U.S. Maneuvers in Arabian Gulf

LD2708192995 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Aug 95

[Unattributed station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. military sources in Kuwait have announced that the U.S. forces will start their maneuvers in Kuwaiti territory tomorrow or the day after. An American military official was quoted as saying that U.S. soldiers who are deployed in Kuwait at present are being trained in the use of their weapons in readiness for the maneuvers which will last 45 days.

It is worth mentioning that the American military build-up in the Arabian Gulf area and the military maneuvers of the American forces in Jordan, the Red Sea, and Kuwait are part of the American efforts to spread U.S. military, political, and economic domination over the area.

The American government confirmed its hostile intentions behind its large military concentrations in the Arab area. The radio of the American intelligence, known as the Voice of America, quoted the commander of the American naval forces as saying that 28,000 U.S. military personnel are at present at the highest state of readiness in the Arab area.

At a news press conference aboard the American carrier Lincoln yesterday, a U.S. military official said that 23,000 soldiers of the combat forces, the air force, and the marines are present in the area and that 5,000 other

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military personnel are at an extreme state of readiness aboard another carrier in the eastern Mediterranean.

The American military official added that these American combat forces also have other military equipment, sufficient to meet the needs of well over 16,000 marines and 6,000 other military personnel.

The commander of the U.S. naval forces has unmasked the falsehood of the American government claims that this military rampage in the Arab area has come about as a result of what he called confronting a probable Iraqi military attack. He announced that no movements of the Iraqi forces have been monitored, but added: We will not stand with arms folded.

Thus America has bared its teeth and its hostile intentions in the Arab area by building up this vast array of its war machine. The statements of the American official have totally bared America and those who helped it to defile the Arab soil, airspace, and seas, even stripping it of its fig leaf. They confirm the truth of what the great Jamahiriyah has said many times about the size of the danger posed by the American rampage in the Arab area to pan-Arab security.

On the other hand, American sources stated that a number of U.S. vessels with military equipment aboard are approaching the Arabian Gulf area. A spokesman of the American forces which will be holding military exercises in Kuwait said that new additional forces of the American marines have been deployed to support the forces which have taken up their positions at the moment.

Commentary Views Continuing Sanctions Against Iraq

LD2708212995 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Aug 95

[Unattributed station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The British delegate at the United Nations has announced that even though the Iraqi government has submitted information on its arms program, this is considered as a strong reason for continuing the sanctions on Iraq. He added in a statement carried by the Egyptian satellite channel ESC that sanctions against Iraq will continue until — he said — we can be satisfied with what he called Iraqi nuclear disarmament and with the absence in Iraq of all weapons of mass destruction, and the picture becomes clear to us.

The statements of the British UN delegate which accord with the U.S. stance on this matter confirm the extent of the haughtiness of America and the West whenever an Arab question is concerned.

Despite the rivalry in rushing to provide military secrets to the Americans, America and the West still talk about what they call the Iraqi nuclear weapon while they keep a watch on Baghdad with sound and picture, and do not allow the Arabs even to own self-defense weapons [sentence as heard].

At a time when the various international media channels are carrying reports on the size of the Israeli nuclear stockpile and the unlimited support America and the West have been giving the Israeli enemy in the nuclear field, the Israeli enemy admitted quite openly to possessing well over 200 nuclear warheads; he has turned occupied Palestine into a frightening storehouse of nuclear weapons whose nuclear radiation has started to reach Arab soil and thus pose an imminent danger to the Arab citizen. This actually happened recently, as it was revealed that a number of Jordanian citizens have been harmed by the radiation from the Israeli nuclear reactors in occupied southern Palestine. Yesterday, press sources in the British capital revealed that Egypt has asked for an urgent investigation of Egyptian citizens' exposure to nuclear radiation which leaked from the Israeli Dimona nuclear reactor.

Vietnamese Ambassador Holds News Conference

LD2708180595 Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [Aug] 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Great Jamahiriyah expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people for the support and assistance presented by the Libyan Arab people to the people of Vietnam during its struggle against American colonialism. The ambassador reiterated his condemnation of the unjust measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah. He reaffirmed the solidarity of the government and people of Vietnam with the Great Jamahiriyah in countering these measures.

In a press conference today on the national day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the ambassador called for the lifting of unjust measures. The ambassador asserted that relations between the Libyan Arab people and the people of Vietnam were firm relations. He reiterated the desire of his country to enhance and develop these relations in all fields.

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Sudan

Former Prime Minister Released From Detention

AB2608132795 Paris AFP in English 1159 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Aug 26 (AFP) — The Sudanese Government Saturday [26 August] released former prime minister Sadeq al-Mahdi, who was detained for three months for having criticized a high-level government official, along with 31 other political prisoners.

Al-Mahdi and the other political detainees were released following a government order, spokesman Abdul-Basit Sabdarat was quoted as saying by the official SUNA news agency.

"The Sudan is now free of all political detainees after the concerned authorities carried out the decision of the National Security Council on the release of all political detainees," Sabdarat said.

Al-Mahdi was met at his home in Omdurman by scores of his supporters in the late morning, witnesses said.

The former prime minister was arrested in May on charges of conspiracy against the government of General 'Umar al-Bashir, which had overthrown him in a bloodless coup d'etat in 1989. He had criticized Hassan Tourabi [al-Turabi], a high-level official in the regime.

The seven-member National Security Council headed by al-Bashir decided Wednesday to release all political detainees without exception within 72 hours.

Of the 32 prisoners, 19 were from al-Madhi's dissolved Umma party, eight were from the outlawed communist party and five were from the disbanded Arab Socialist Ba'athist party, Sabdarat said.

First Vice President on al-Mahdi's Arrest

EA2608173295 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 26 Aug (SUNA) — Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic, has said that the arrest of the former prime minister Mr. al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in the past came as a result of [word indistinct] and facts [word indistinct], considered as posing a threat to the security of Sudan. There had to be precautionary measures to prevent this threat.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr said in an interview with SUNA today that the facts [word indistinct] and preparations for the Asmara conference held by the opposition targeted the security and safety of the country. It was supposed to begin with an external [word indistinct], to be followed by breaches of security inside the country. He added: but god's will was above everything and the Asmara conference ended without forming any threat to the security of the country.

As to the release of the political detainees, this was a Sudanese decision, made within the country without any pressure or recommendations from outside the country.

The first vice president of the Republic, Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, referred to the return of opposition politician Maj. Gen. al-Hadi Bushra to the homeland on 10 August and said it was a natural response to the call of Lieutenant Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, to all the sons of the homeland to (?return) whenever they (?wished) unconditionally.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr added that Maj. Gen. al-Hadi Bushra was one of the most prominent people in the so-called national alliance and represented a central pillar [words indistinct]. He said the return of Maj. Gen. al-Hadi Bushra occurred at the time when the town of Kaia was regained. This showed that peace from within was getting stronger. It also showed that the so-called external opposition had (?broken up). He said this conviction was strengthened by the current war of words in the ranks of the opposition in Cairo and elsewhere.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr concluded his interview with SUNA by saying that the political leadership of Sudan was aware of the current rapid and successive changes in the Arab world. He said the revolution in Sudan was making external contacts to entrench internal unity and to establish the foundations of peace and development on the basis of consultation within the framework of the national accord.

He expressed his hope that these contacts would bear fruit in the very near future. He said that the revolution was not for the benefit of one individual or group, whatever its importance, but it was working to (?establish) god's law on earth on the basis of its strong faith in its mission.

The National Security Council, chaired by Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, decided on Wednesday [23 August] to release all political prisoners. The minister of culture and information [words indistinct] declared that Sudan no longer had any political detainees following the implementation of the National Security Council's decision.

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Former President Said To Head 'Exile' Government

NC2608132595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)— The newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today reports that former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri will chair the Sudanese government-in-exile that was announced recently. The government includes four major sectors: defense, national security, economy, foreign relations and services.

The paper points out that the services sector will include health, education, housing, utilities, communications, and refugee affairs.

AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I says that the Sudanese opposition and prominent Sudanese elements who fled abroad from the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime are currently conducting a series of consultations and intensive contacts to form this government-in-exile.

The paper adds that the government-in-exile will have its headquarters in Sudan within the framework of the clandestine [Mustatirah] government currently being set up secretly in Sudan.

The paper adds that Numayri will hold an international news conference in the next few days to review with opposition leaders the tasks of this government-in-exile.

The former Sudanese president told AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I that he is cooperating with the members of the government-in-exile to draw up a comprehensive plan that guarantees that the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime will not harm the members of this government either in exile or inside Sudan.

"We will work to unite Sudan's north and south and will carry out economic, political, and social development programs," Numayri said.

He added that one of the major goals of this government is to overthrow the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime and wipe out its terrorist effects, which Sudan had never experienced throughout its history. He pointed out that there are intensive contacts with the "warring factions" inside Sudan to achieve peace and national accord among all the powers of the Sudanese people and preserve the higher Sudanese interest.

Numayri continued that the government-in-exile will work in accord with the Addis Ababa agreement, which restored peace and harmony among all the Sudanese nationals, to avoid the recurrence of the tragedy. He affirmed his preparedness to respect international agreements, not to interfere in other countries' internal affairs, and to overcome terrorism in all its forms.

Numayri remarked that the delay in announcing the government is due to some administrative, technical, and political measures. He affirmed that the government-in-exile will be proclaimed soon.

'Rival' Group Accused of Reneging on Reconciliation

AB2708131395 Paris AFP in English 2335 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, Aug 25 (AFP) — The rebel South Sudan Independence Movement/Army (SSIM/A) on Friday [25 August] accused rival John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) of reneging on reconciliation between the two movements.

SSIM/A leader Riak Machar told newsmen here that a senior official of Garang's faction had informed his movement that the SPLM/A was no longer interested in reconciliation talks with SSIM/A unless William Nyuon Bany was the latter movement's leader.

Riak said that the ultimatum by the SPLM/A on the leadership of the SSIM/A "was tantamount to telling us that they were pulling out of the peace talks, as William Nyuon never represented the SSIM/A."

Reiterating that his faction was still committed to reconciliation, peace and unity among southern Sudanese and in the liberation struggle, Riak urged Sudanese, the international community, member states of the regional Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), particularly its chairman President Daniel arap Moi, to bring pressure to bear on Garang's SPLM to end belligerency against SSIM/A.

The new development comes only 11 days after Nyuon announced that Riak had been ousted from the movement's leadership.

The SSIM/A leadership last week denied the claims by Nyuon and another dissident, John Luk Jok, saying the alleged coup in the SSIM was a disinformation campaign orchestrated by Garang, adding that Nyuon and Luk had defected to the SPLM/A.

"It was now obvious that Garang had no agenda for peace, but to wage war against SSIM," SSIM spokesman David de Chand declared.

SSIM has since expelled Nyuon, Luk Jok and six others from the movement for their role in the alleged coup attempt.

Relations between the two southern rebel groups came to a head when SSIM/A announced early this month that some 4,000 SPLA forces had crossed from Lakes

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States on July 30 and launched an unprovoked attack on Pinyinjar district of Liech state in Upper Nile region and massacred more than 210 people, most of them women and children.

The attackers also burned down 41 villages and drove away more than 3,500 heads of cattle, as well as destroyed crops in fields, thereby rendering thousands of people homeless and without food.

On Wednesday, the United States confirmed that the Pinyinjar attacks were carried out by the SPLA and urged Garang to help bring the perpetrators to book.

SSIM/A also claimed that the SPLA forces struck again on August 12 at Ulier and Koachkoachni in Mankien district of the same state, details of which have already been given Garang in a letter by Riak.

On Friday, SSIM claimed again that SPLA forces and armed civilians of the Dinka tribe of Garang, under the command of Nyuon and Bior Ajang, had crossed from Garang's home area of Kongor and Bor attacked SSIA positions at Panyok, some 16 kilometres (10 miles) west of Yuai relief center on Thursday, and that fighting was still raging.

The southern Sudanese rebels under Garang took up arms against Khartoum in 1983 to end domination of the Christian and animist south by the Arabised, Moslem north, but split into two factions in 1991 when Riak, then Garang's deputy, left to form the SPLM/A- United.

He changed the faction's name to SSIM/A in September last year, saying that it did not want to fight for a united secular Sudan, but for outright independence of the south.

One of his colleagues, Lam Akol and other SSIM dissidents, then resurrected the SPLM/A-United under his own leadership.

Radio Reports on Delegation Visit to Libya

EA2508162595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Delegations from the national transitional assembly have begun to set out on visits to a number of arab states to meet members of the parliaments of those states to consult them on a number of regional and international political issues levels and present Sudan's views on them. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Major General Muhammad Abdullah Uwaydah, the chairman of the assembly's security and defense committee, has left for the Libyan Arab Jamahariyah, where he has delivered a message from the speaker of the assembly to his counterpart, Muhammad al-Zanati, the secretary of the Libyan General People's Congress. Maj. Gen. Uwaydah said that issues affecting the Sudanese residing in Libya and action in this context would be discussed. He would also brief them on political developments in the country brought about by the National Salvation Revolution.

He went on to say that the delegation would brief the Libyan leadership on the Cairo regime's acts of aggression, its occupation of Hala'ib and its hosting of and support for opposition elements and rebel delegations at a time when Sudan exercised good neighborliness and adhered to the principle of noninterference in the affairs of other states.

Al-Bashir Sends Letter to al-Qadhdhafi

EA2508191495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has sent a letter to the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, on relations between the two countries and ways of strengthening and developing them. The SUDAN NEWS AGENCY, which furnished the report, stated that Colonel Bakri Hasan Salih, the minister of interior, delivered the message when Col. al-Qadhdhafi received him in Tripoli yesterday [24 August].

Radio Reports on Rebels Massacre of 200 Civilians

EA2508192395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The mounting savagery of the battles between rebel factions has led to the killing of over 200 civilians in the (Ganil) area, where the rebels perpetrated a hideous massacre against the citizens who refused to join them. Relief organizations said half of the victims were physically weak people and children. Thousands of citizens fled after the rebels burned their villages.

Meanwhile, reports indicate that the rebel movement is continuing to abduct children, press them into its ranks, and drive them into the battlefields as human shields. The reports add that there is a rebel committee making propaganda for the rebel movement inside the refugee camps in the neighboring states, particularly in Kenya and Uganda, with a view to forcibly recruiting them. This is being done to fill the terrible gaps in the ranks of the rebellion, which has been abandoned by thousands after their return to the country in response to the revolution's peace calls.

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Official Reports on Relief Supplies Sent to South

EA2708181795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An operation has begun to drop 150 tonnes of relief supplies in Pachala and Torit as part of the lifeline program to support those affected in the south of the country.

This was stated to Sudan News Agency by Mr. Muhammad Abdullah Jabir, assistant commissioner of relief at the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission.

He pointed out that 75 tonnes of relief supplies have landed in Pachala town and 75 tonnes in Torit town. He said a steamer carrying relief supplies will this week leave Malakal for Juba carrying relief supplies and medicines. He said that relief will be sent to 24 areas in the south of the country and that some of these areas lie under the control of the rebel movement.

Al-Bashir's Wife Condemns Bosnian Serbs at Rally

EA2708174095 Khartoum SUNA in English 1705 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Khartoum, 26 Aug (SUNA) — The Sudanese women organization for supporting the Bosnian people Saturday [26 August] launched a mass rally at the Friendship Hall here under [the] auspices of the wife of President 'Umar al-Bashir, Fatima Khalid al-Bashir, who addressed the rally asserting the firm stance of the Bosnian people.

She condemned the [word indistinct] Serbian crimes against the Bosnian children and women amid international silence.

She praised the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, [the] president of the United Arab Emirates and the Jordanian King Husayn for their material support to the Bosnian people. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Polisario Leader Warns of Resumption in Fighting

LD2608161495 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Western Sahara: In an interview with the daily LE MATIN, Bechir Mustafa Sayed, deputy leader of the Polisario Front, issued a warning to the United Nations. He believes that unless the Security Council makes an effort to restore confidence in the peace process, the Polisario Front will have no alternative but to resume fighting. Nevertheless, Bechir Mustafa Sayed says that his movement still prefers a peaceful path to a settlement of the Western Sahara problem.

Communique Issued From Polisario Congress

LD2508225695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2130 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ninth congress of Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] has reasserted its desire to continue with the peace process. A new leadership was elected. The main recommendation was to settle the conflict between Western Sahara and Morocco by peaceful means, and to appeal to the international community to ensure that Morocco respects the UN-OAU peace plan. A reading of the final communique of the congress from our special correspondent in the liberated territories, Walid Salman:

[Salman] Firstly, the Polisario Front reasserts its desire to continue with a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the region, in conformity with the UN plan. However, the international community must take the right steps, and above all face up to its responsibilities. An appeal was made to this end. Getting Morocco to improve its behavior is an essential prerequisite: more than (?600) Moroccan cease-fire violations have been registered so far, and tens of thousands of Moroccans have been transferred to the Western Sahara with the goal of causing the UN peace process to fail.

Secondly, the Moroccan gamble to try to take advantage of the regional situation was already lost before it was made. Instead of being changed, positions of principle were reaffirmed. The attendance of a large Algerian ministerial delegation at the opening of the congress is a perfect illustration of this. The recognition of the SADR, the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, by South Africa and Malawi, is more tangible proof.

Thirdly, and lastly, the Saharan people have to prepare themselves for every eventuality. The failure of the peace process is still a possibility. The military effort must be maintained. A resolution to this effect was signed, stipulating, among other things, the need to support the Saharan population in the occupied territories.

The new leadership of the Polisario Front elected late yesterday evening has been mandated by the congress to make whatever decisions are demanded by the evolution of the situation nationally, regionally, and internationally.

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President Gives Final Speech

LD2708225495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz has stressed that the new Saharan leadership will seek to carry out the resolutions taken by the ninth congress of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro], which shows the relationship ties between the Polisario Front and the Saharan people. Delivering the final speech before the conferees, Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz said that the ninth congress of the Polisario Front is considered one of the most important Saharan national events crowned with success. He blamed Morocco for obstructing the UN sponsored peace process which consists in organizing a referendum in the Western Sahara, and he expressed hope that there will be no return to war with Morocco. In conclusion, Mr. Abdelaziz called on the Saharan people to ensure that their names are registered in electoral lists in preparation for the referendum due to be held next year. The ninth congress of the Polisario Front crowned its work today by releasing a statement saying that the congress had studied in depth the current situation in all its aspects to take the ways and means likely to give substance to the national options. The ninth congress also underlined its will rather to seek peaceful means to resolve the Saharan question in accordance with the UN and OAU resolutions.

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Kuwait

Iraqi Soldiers, Student Arrested Crossing Border

NC2708151695 Paris AFP in English
1347 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Aug 27 (AFP) — Kuwait has arrested two Iraqi soldiers and a student who tried to enter the emirate illegally, the daily AL-ANBA' reported on Sunday [27 August].

The soldiers asked the authorities to give them political asylum or to deport them to a country other than Iraq, the paper said without giving a date for their arrests.

There was no official confirmation of the arrests.

Kuwait's Defence Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah said Thursday that a "group of Iraqi civilians and soldiers crossed the northern border before being arrested" by Kuwaiti security forces.

Since Iraqi occupying troops were driven out of Kuwait in February 1991 the authorities and the press regularly announce the arrests of infiltrators, mostly Iraqis and Iranians.

Iraq was shaken earlier this month by the defection to Jordan of its industry minister Husayn Kamil Hasan, his brother Saddam Kamil Hasan, a senior officer in the presidential guards, and their wives, both daughters of President Saddam Husayn.

Government Welcomes Jordan's Criticism of Iraq

NC2808110295 Paris AFP in English
1056 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Aug 28 (AFP)— Kuwait on Monday [28 August] welcomed Jordanian criticism of Iraq, saying a speech by King Husayn last week was an important step towards reestablishing links severed in the 1990 Gulf crisis.

The Kuwaiti cabinet decided the King's speech on Wednesday, in which he fiercely criticised the Iraqi government, was "an important step towards reestablishing relations with Kuwait," a government source said.

"King Husayn expressed himself with a frankness different from the past, which calls for an adequate Kuwaiti response," the source added.

The cabinet particularly welcomed the fact that King Husayn had pressed Iraq to reveal the fate of prisoners captured by Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait between August 1990 and February 1991.

Kuwait cut links with Jordan after the Iraqi invasion because of what was seen as Amman's pro-Baghdad stance during the crisis.

"All that Kuwait wants from countries which supported Iraq is that they put pressure on Baghdad to implement all its commitments to the international community," the government source said.

In his speech, King Husayn said General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the former Iraqi industry minister and son-in-law of President Saddam Husayn who defected to Jordan on August 8, had opened his eyes to what was going on in Iraq.

Hasan said Iraq had planned to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on August 31 this year.

Official, Papers on Signs Iraq To Release Detainees

NC2808102195 Paris AFP in English
0919 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Aug 28 (AFP)— Iraq has admitted it jailed 116 people in the country after its occupation of Kuwait, amid signs it might account for all 605 people believed held by Baghdad, a Kuwaiti official said here Monday [28 August].

Iraq added 43 names to a previous list of 73 prisoners at talks in Geneva earlier this month and raised hopes it will not only attend a meeting Tuesday on the Kuwait border but also provide further details, Du'ayj al-'Anzi said.

The meeting set for Tuesday and Wednesday will be the first attended by both sides along their border and will be the 14th in the series sponsored by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

It is only in the last year Baghdad has admitted to having jailed in Iraq people it arrested during the 1990-1991 occupation, said al- 'Anzi, general manager of the national committee for prisoners of war and missing persons affairs.

"The Iraqis were denying having anybody after liberation," he said.

The meeting starting Tuesday will be held on the Kuwaiti side of the border at the offices of the UN Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission, which monitors the frontier, he said.

As in the 13 other meetings, delegates from Iraq, Kuwait, the United States, Britain, France and Saudi Arabia will all attend, he said.

Kuwaiti newspapers reported on Monday that 30 Kuwaitis captured during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait were freed during the 1991 Shiite uprising but recaptured and sent to an underground prison outside Baghdad.

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The 30 had been freed from a prison in al-Basrah by Shiite rebels in March 1991 but recaptured by Republican Guard troops and sent to al-Ridwaniyah prison, the ARAB TIMES and its sister paper AL-SIYASAH reported.

Another 145 Kuwaitis escaped from the prison during the chaos that followed the Gulf War to free Kuwait "and their fate has not been known since," former Iraqi soldiers who fled to Jordan told the newspapers.

Several hundred prisoners in the al-Basrah prison — 400 according to the ARAB TIMES and 450 according to AL-SIYASAH — were sent to Baghdad before the uprising.

The sources in Amman also said Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was planning an "initiative" on the prisoners to break the stalemate with the West over economic sanctions imposed on Baghdad after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Kuwait says 605 people, including 550 Kuwaitis and eight women, were captured during the occupation and taken to Iraqi jails.

Chairman Discusses Iraq With Indian Officials

LD2508205295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1602 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New Delhi, 25 Aug — Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, chairman of the national committee for the affairs of the prisoners and the missing, today delivered to Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao a message on Kuwaiti-Indian political and economic relations from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister.

This occurred when Shaykh Salim met the Indian prime minister. During the meeting, the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners detained by Iraq in its prisons, the totality of bilateral relations, and the developments in the Gulf region and south Asia were discussed.

The chairman of the national committee for the affairs of the prisoners and the missing said that the heir apparent's message to the Prime Minister Narasimha Rao dealt mainly with bilateral relations between Kuwait and India, which he described as "firm and strong." [passage omitted]

Shaykh Salim said in his news conference that Iraq had planned to invade Kuwait for the second time, except that the large defection to Jordan of senior [officials] surrounding Saddam Husayn had foiled his plan.

He said that King Husayn of Jordan had also stressed the existence of an Iraqi regime's secret plan to attack Kuwait.

He pointed out that Kuwait did not support the disintegration of Iraq, but supported its unity, except that the Kuwaitis opposed the dictatorial regime of Saddam Husayn. He said, "Kuwait is facing a threat to its territorial integrity as long as Saddam Husayn stays in power."

He added that the defection of Saddam Husayn's relatives and senior aides would confound the Iraqi dictator and affect his morale. He said that the existence of a weak and unstable Iraq could have destructive effects on the whole of the Gulf region.

Shaykh Salim, who held extensive talks with Foreign Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Parliament Speaker Patil Shivraj, and numerous other Indian politicians, went on to say that the bringing forward of the Kuwait-American maneuvers, which were due to be held at a later time this year, was due to the Iraqi threat.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on Iraq, POW's, Military

LD2608103095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0845 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Aug — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad [al-Jabir al-Sabah], Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stressed here today that everyone "is waiting impatiently for the Iraqi people to be freed from their chains and for the oppression to be removed from them." In an interview in the issue published today in the weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM, Shaykh Sabah said that "this oppression was brought upon them by the rulers of Iraq who also caused it to continue until now."

He indicated that Kuwait "is observing at close quarters the developments in the situation after the defection to Jordan of Husayn Kamil, the Iraqi minister of industry and minerals and head of the Military Industrialization Organization, his brother Saddam Kamil Hasan, and their wives — the daughters of Saddam Husayn."

He said: "We expect Jordan to help in obtaining information of interest to us, particularly about Kuwaiti POWs in unjust and hostile detention in Iraqi prisons."

Shaykh Sabah expressed the Kuwaiti government's intention to complete the program to build up and bolster its armed forces and provide training and experience so that they will be prepared for any eventuality. He explained that "at the same time" Kuwait is undertaking intensive diplomatic efforts to build up pressure on Iraq by means of international consensus to implement the resolutions of the UN Security Council "completely." [passage omitted]

He referred to cooperation with Egypt to counter the phenomenon of terrorism, indicating that Kuwait "is

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also targeted by terrorism and affected by it. It therefore combats it in cooperation and joint coordination with Egypt." [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

'Defamatory' Campaigns Over Executions Criticized

LD2608052495 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Aug 95

[Commentary by Husayn al-'Askari]

[FBIS Translated Text] Honest sources have rightly said that the defamatory campaigns by some foreign media against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia because it upholds the laws of the Islamic shari'ah, seek to harm Islam and its followers because those who embark on these campaigns stand in the same trench of the enemies of Islam.

Growing fear and the absence of security which one sees in some human societies in today's world, according to leading intellectuals and social reformers in those societies, are due to a spiritual vacuum and because the criminal is not duly punished or made to pay for his crime and the absence of punishment has led to widening the circle of crime. This is because the criminal is confident that he will not be punished and hence he feels that whatever punishment he may receive will not be at the level of his crime.

This is why the societies which put the criminal on the same par with the victim have lost their control over security and this has made the people who live in these societies live in constant fear of the gangs which in broad daylight attack people, kill, loot and pillage and rape.

It is because the criminal knows that he will end up in prison only for a short internment of a few years and the murderer is sure that he will not lose his life. The same thing concerns the one who pushes and peddles in drugs for he knows beforehand that he will be sent to prison for a period of time and afterward he will be let loose in society to resume his crimes and continue the trade of killing people against God's wish. God ordained not to take life which He has made sacred except for a just cause. Those who sell drugs commit a greater crime than murder because they kill a nation. Their punishment is death.

This is what the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is doing to protect its human beings. And as His Highness the crown prince said, meting out punishment on drugs peddlers has led to the reduction of the spread of these poisons in Saudi societies. The will of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques to protect its citizens and those who reside on its soil is based on this. So is safeguarding man's dignity and ensuring that he lives in safety and security. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not to be swayed by any campaigns by some foreign quarters which are hostile to Islam and its laws and who give credence to committing wrong. If these people were honest to themselves they would have turned around and would have seen that their societies have lost their security and safety and their human beings live in permanent fear and insecurity and they cannot protect his honour or worldly possessions

When a person is murdered [in those societies] his blood is shed in vain and gun battles take place in the streets and innocent people fall by the score. All this in the eyes of those who falsely cry over the rights of man has a justification. But the application of the shari'ah laws by the Kingdom on those who take life is unacceptable to them. It is nothing else other than envy and hatred of the Kingdom which lives in a security they do not have and in the prosperity they cannot attain.

Bosnia, U.S. Goal of 'Liquidating' Islam Viewed

LD2808094595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0620 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyad, 28 August — Today's Saudi newspapers appeared carrying the following main headlines. [passage omitted]

Under the headline "Between Flagging and Conspiracy," AL-NADWAH said: The withdrawal of the British forces from the town of Gorazde raises more than a question mark on the fate of the other Bosnian towns, especially after the fall of the Srbrenica and Zepa, two of the six safe towns, which a resolution issued by the UN Security Council promised to protect against any aggression. But today, the withdrawal of the British forces from Gorazde confirms the international connivance to surrender the next safe town to the aggressors. The newspaper pointed out that the observer of the development of the war over the past four years completely realizes that the presence of the UN peacekeeping forces was aimed at finding justifications for the elimination of the Islamic presence, starting with the capture of territories, through the expulsion of its people from them, and concluding with the final liquidation, which was nearing its end. The newspaper added that in order to prove this fact, the decision to impose the arms embargo on the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina was supposed to include all the warring sides, including the Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats, but that embargo was only enforced on the Muslims, because the Bosnian Serbs were getting their advanced heavy weapons from Serbia, Montenegro, and Russia. In other words, the aim of the embargo was to deprive

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the Muslims of obtaining the weapons to defend their existence. The newspaper concluded that if the United States had promised to protect Gorazde against Serb attacks, and prevent its occupation when it came under attack, then that would amount to no more than a new imaginary initiative to justify the American flagging position, and neutralize the European conspiratorial stances. And, between languor and conspiracy, the goals of the basic issue in liquidating the Islamic presence in Europe are being achieved. This is the beginning which is preparing for the battles in Kosovo, Macedonia, and Albania.

Egyptian Envoy on Saudi Work Visa Restrictions

LD2608092895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0706 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Aug (KUNA) — Muhammad Fathi al-Shadhali, the Egyptian ambassador in Saudi Arabia, has denied that the temporary halt in the issuing of visas by Saudi Arabia to Egyptian workers is a measure confined to Egyptians, explaining that it applies to all other nationalities.

In a statement to KUNA, he said that he has received assurances from Saudi officials that this matter falls within the framework of "the process of a comprehensive revision of the Saudi market's requirements for migrant manpower, with the aim of promoting and improving employment opportunities for the Saudi workforce."

Shadhali also quotes Saudi officials as giving assurances that this reassessment is not related to any specific circumstances, indicating that the sixth Saudi five-year plan, which was announced two months ago, comprises action to provide more opportunities for the Saudi workforce by using it to replace migrant workers. [passage omitted]

In his statement to KUNA, the Egyptian ambassador indicated that the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries has increased greatly, reaching around $400 million in 1993, a six-fold increase since 1988. He explained that the balance of trade favors Egypt, whose exports to Saudi Arabia have reached a volume of $285 million, while its imports are worth $112 million.

Regarding joint investments between businessmen in the two countries, the Egyptian ambassador said that they have achieved a major leap forward in recent years, indicating that up to the middle of last year, Saudi investments in Egypt reached $597 million. He said that Saudi investments in Egypt represent 38.5 percent of total Arab investments in Egypt.

Regarding Saudi tourism, he said that Saudi Arabia is the second country after Germany with respect to the number of tourists visiting Egypt. He said that 234,000 Saudi tourists visited Egypt in 1994.

He said that the Egyptian community in Saudi Arabia is one of the largest foreign communities, with an estimated 1.5 million Egyptians working in various specializations and fields. [passage omitted]

Yemen

House Speaker Receives Chinese Charge D'Affaires

JN2708144395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the House of Representatives speaker, this morning received the Chinese charge d'affaires to our country, who extended an invitation to him from the chairman of the standing committee of the National People's Congress to visit the People's Republic of China. The House speaker accepted the invitation, the date of which will be set later. He expressed his deep thanks to the people, parliament, and government of the friendly People's Republic of China for the interest they have in Yemen. He also stressed our country's support for China's just positions at international forums, wishing the relations between the two countries continued growth and continuity.

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Saddam, Like Rivers, 'Will Never Leave Iraq'

JN2708123495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the first Iraqi reaction to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's statement yesterday that his country is ready to grant Iraqi President Saddam Husayn political asylum, the official Iraqi newspaper BABIL today said that Saddam Husayn will never leave Iraq. BABIL, which is run by Saddam Husayn's son, 'Udayy, adds: Saddam is like the Tigris and Euphrates. Just like these two rivers, the paper says, Saddam will not leave Iraq for internal and external hyenas.

Saddam Said To Accept 'Conditions' To Retain Power

JN2608103095 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 22 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Muhammad al-Khatayibah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Informed Jordanian sources yesterday said that after a series of contacts with the Jordanian leadership, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn agreed to the international and Gulf conditions for remaining in power. The sources said that Baghdad, in coordination with Jordan, is showing exceptional readiness to respond to a number of objective conditions.

The sources said that under those conditions, substantive changes in the structure of rule and administration in Baghdad and assurances of nonaggression against neighboring countries are demanded, while maintaining Iraqi territorial integrity and rebuilding Iraq in a manner that conforms with the regional and international changes.

The sources added that Jordan and several concerned parties are holding contacts to assess the situation and sound out views. They added that Jordan is proceeding with its initiative to lift the Iraq blockade. Meanwhile, observers affirm that Iraq has begun to rely on Jordan to manage its crisis with the international community.

AL-ITTIHAD sources say that the U.S. delegation that visited Amman recently under envoy Robert Pelletreau received a complete Jordanian view on how to deal with the crisis with Iraq in a manner that ensures the implementation of the U.S. conditions without further bloodshed and without bringing down the Iraqi president.

Husayn Kamil: I Am Not After Power in Iraq

MM2508120595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Report on interview with General Husayn Kamil, former industry minister who defected to Jordan, by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Staff General Husayn Kamil, former Iraqi industry minister and director of the Military Industrialization Organization who defected to Jordan, has said that he is "not after power in Baghdad, but want to rescue Iraq." He pointed out that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn "cannot tolerate some distinguished figures in his regime."

Husayn Kamil said in an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the first of its kind given to any publication since his flight from Baghdad and defection to Jordan on 10 August, that President Saddam Husayn was planning to boycott Jordan once the international embargo imposed on Iraq was lifted.

Gen. Husayn Kamil said that "there is a realistic possibility of a change in Iraq that guarantees the country's unity, establishes freedoms, recognizes the national and cultural rights of all groups of society, and restores Iraq's status as an influential state that is peaceful toward its neighbors."

He said that he is firmly confident that this kind of change is going to be achieved, and that he views the sounds emanating from Baghdad against him as "the death throes of those who have ruined Iraq and inflicted disasters on it."

He denied that the family dispute was the cause of his decision to leave Iraq. "Because the matter is much bigger than that. It is to do with the need to rescue the homeland and to safeguard the dignity of its people."

Husayn Kamil confirmed the information he revealed earlier regarding a plan prepared by the Iraqi president to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He said: "That plan was based on using all that was left of the weapons, including pushing aircraft into an open battle, despite the danger of embarking on such an action." He added: "But decisions that are made emotionally can be very dangerous because they are made at a moment of despair and isolation."

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He said that his defection from Iraq thwarted the plan of aggression, for which 31 August 1995 had been set as a date, coinciding with the ultimatum announced by the Iraqi president for the UN committees inspecting the mass-destruction weapons in Iraq.

He said that "instructions were issued to plunder and steal anything found in the way of the officers and soldiers to be dispatched to invade Kuwait again. And that these instructions were issued by President Saddam Husayn himself since the deployment that took place near the Kuwaiti border in October 1994, when he intended to attack Kuwait but the swift international reaction forced him to backtrack."

He said that [UN inspector] Ekeus, who met with him in Amman on Tuesday, told him that he sensed that possibility when he received the last written ultimatum from Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz on 9 August, that is before the announcement of Gen. Kamil's defection to Jordan.

Husayn Kamil denied the statements attributed to him during the fighting in Karbala' between government forces and those taking part in the city's uprising after the Gulf war in 1991. He said: "We will one day reveal the circumstances of what happened because of fear for Iraq's unity and efforts to prevent its partition. As for the statements attributed to me regarding the sanctity of holy sites, not only do I deny them, but I also stress my profound respect for these holy sites and the value they represent. I believe that these holy sites should not be touched."

He spoke of a number of situations in which he criticized — in front of the Iraqi president himself — the policies pursued by the Iraqi regime. He said: "I sharply criticized the general performance in the party and the state, in addition to the corruption. Proof of this is the election conference held in the military bureau in 1991 and the regional conference held later. This is why I refused to run for the regional command membership, so as not to become part of a leadership making erroneous policies which inflict disasters on the Iraqi people. I also submitted my resignation from the Defense Ministry in protest of the corruption, injustice, and chaos."

He ridiculed the postponement of the party's last regional conference, which was scheduled to be held on 9 September 1994 but was held in July 1995. He said that the new date for the conference was set deliberately to ensure that Gen. Kamil was outside Iraq (on an official visit to Moscow) to prevent him from exposing the erroneous policies pursued and the names of the people implicated in crimes, as he had been preparing to launch a loud protest at the conference. They knew that he was intending to do that.

On the accusations leveled at him by Iraqi officials regarding his shares in the Babil and Melia Hotels, Gen. Kamil said: "I was the first to reveal the secrets of the shares. I notified President Saddam of that — which prompted him to summon all those concerned in the family, informing them that I was critical of some of them being implicated in the purchase of shares and control of the companies. I told them all at that meeting that what they had done was wrong and ugly and that I would announce the names of those involved. Some of them denied doing it. Qusayy admitted buying a limited number of the shares estimated at about 250,000 dinars, even though the figure was actually much higher than that. While the president's secretary, 'Abd-al-Hamid, denied any involvement, although I later submitted a list including his name and that of his wife concerning their ownership of shares in 38 enterprises and companies."

As for 'Udayy, Gen. Kamil adds, he remained silent. He could not talk about his ownership of most of the new national banks, including the United Bank, in addition to the Babil Hotel, meat and poultry companies, and the Transport Ministry companies. 'Udayy distributes the shares in and controls every big company in Iraq. This is in addition to his control of transport operations and the transportation of oil from Iraq to Jordan and Iran. The meeting was attended by 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Watban Ibrahim, and others. And Rukan [as transliterated] (one of Saddam's escorts) revealed a small part of the company shares he owns. This is why the accusations must be made. They must admit what they have done against people's property and rights. There are many other things.

Gen. Husayn Kamil criticized the elimination of most commanders in the Iraq-Iran war. He wondered: "Where are the commanders of the two Gulf wars?"

He added: "The president does not want distinguished, open-minded, or brave people around him. Nor does he want to see any people becoming popular among Iraqis. This is why hundreds of distinguished people have been eliminated or dismissed in all fields."

Gen. Kamil accused Saddam Husayn of "always harboring bad intentions toward Jordan; had it not been for his predicament, he would have carried out many actions against this noble Arab country."

He said: "I have numerous proof of the regime's intention to boycott Jordan economically once the international embargo imposed on Iraq has been lifted. Saddam's views were known at his meetings with me and at the official meetings as well."

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Gen. Husayn Kamil challenged those attacking him in Baghdad to reveal their links and actions. He expressed his confidence that "an organized and calm political program will be implemented to speed up a change in Iraq toward respect for human rights and political pluralism and guaranteeing the Iraqi homeland's constitutional unity."

He said that "prominent Iraqi figures and organizations expressed in direct contacts with me their support for this plan, for whose implementation extensive efforts are being made to salvage Iraq with a view to ending the blockade and building a new Iraq."

Concluding his statement, Kamil said: "I am not after power. I find myself responsible for embarking on a major action to rescue the Iraqis and stop the eliminations, repression, and violation of dignity in Iraq."

Defector Expects Change in Iraq 'Soon'

MM2508153995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Interview with Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law who defected to Jordan, by Zuhayr Qusaybati; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Qusaybati] Rolf Ekeus, head of the [UN] disarmament commission, has announced that he received information on arms from you in Amman. You said some days ago that Baghdad had revealed everything and then you were quoted as saying that Iraq was still concealing information.

[Hasan] Baghdad recognized the Security Council resolutions on the issue of the weapons of mass destruction and other issues pertaining to the Gulf war but it then tried to wriggle out of that recognition and to avoid implementation of the resolutions. It tried for years to conceal the arms secrets. It concealed information about missiles, chemical weapons, and nuclear and germ programs. That directly affected Iraq, as reflected in the continuation of the blockade and erosion of the Iraqi state's credibility. Baghdad used to say that there was nothing to declare and then announce the opposite. All these (chemical, germ, and nuclear) programs and weapons were destroyed, so what is the point of withholding documents from the United Nations? The current Iraqi leadership does not care about the harm done to Iraqi society by the blockade. It counted on time to perhaps bring about some change in its favor internationally, in Russia or France for instance, that it would be able to exploit, overlooking the now extremely serious condition of the people and the country. As a result of the despair and the people's inability to maintain their livelihood, a clear division began to emerge between the people and the state. That division forced the authorities to wreak vengeance on sectors of society instead of making a reappraisal, exercising democracy, and correcting the mistakes. Any Iraqi who talks about mistakes could face execution, life imprisonment, or imprisonment for 15 or 20 years. (The regime) concealed information about arms, thinking that history would credit it for something and that Iraq might again become a fighting state. The aim was known: Re-entry into Kuwait and entry into Saudi Arabia. In the war (the second Gulf war) the regime intended to go into Saudi Arabia too and it saw the fact that it did not cross into the eastern region of Saudi Arabia as a mistake. It wanted to lay its hands on Kuwaiti and Saudi oil. The blockade is in its sixth year but the (Iraqi) regime does not care. It had hoped to be able to control the Arab world and to become a superpower in the world.

[Qusaybati] Is the statement attributed to you, that Iraq was on the verge of having a nuclear bomb shortly before the second Gulf war, true?

[Hasan] Iraq managed to devise many ways of separating uranium, such as central separation [al-tard al-markazi], and depended on the available uranium from Russia and France and also on its own ability to produce uranium. That is what made it rush to enter Kuwait (in the summer of 1990) thinking that the world would not confront it, but Iraq paid the ultimate price and so did Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the Arab and international communities.

[Qusaybati] Where does your plan for change in Iraq begin? Do you still rely on the Republican Guard to carry out the change?

[Hasan] We count on our entire society. There is some alienation now between Iraqi society — civilian and military — on the one hand and the authorities on the other. We believe that there is no harmony now between the [regime] and society, including sectors of the Republican Guard and the Army. Action against the regime will assume numerous forms which we cannot divulge. We have a major base in the Republican Guard, the Special Guard, the Army, and various sectors of society. Urgent preparations are now under way, some by commanders and some by senior officers, and they will not be affected by what the regime is doing. They wait for the moment to change it.

[Qusaybati] Will the change take place soon?

[Hasan] God willing, it will certainly be soon. In that we rely on Iraqi society and on the support of Arab society. We badly need our Arab brothers, bearing in mind that it is directly up to Iraq itself.

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[Qusaybati] Do you believe that the change will occur from within Iraq?

[Hasan] Yes, it will depend on the Iraqi people and Army.

[Qusaybati] Are you coordinating with the Americans to topple President Saddam Husayn's regime?

[Hasan] No, so far there has been no coordination with the Americans on that matter but we will hold a dialogue with our Arab brothers to get rid of the regime, and there will be numerous meetings with international parties. We will explain our position in detail.

[Qusaybati] Can you confirm what has been said about your meeting with U.S. officials in Amman after your departure from Iraq?

[Hasan] To this day there have been no meetings with U.S. officials but we are trying to hold contacts with international parties including the Americans because of their special position, because the United States is a superpower and has ties with the Arab region. We cannot do without that.

[Qusaybati] It has been claimed that the Americans were aware of your dissatisfaction with the situation in Iraq some time before you went to Jordan.

[Hasan] I do not know if they knew or not because I only explained my criticisms to the Jordanian leadership. I criticized the internal (Iraqi situation), submitted my resignation, and left the Defense Ministry then returned but no changes were made. Nobody knew about my departure (from Iraq). Even Jordan did not have prior knowledge and there was no prior coordination with any Arab or international side. I entered Jordan at about 0400 hours. A driver took me to a hotel. When morning broke I, from the hotel, contacted a Jordanian official and asked for a meeting with His Majesty King Husayn. Then I explained my position to him in detail. He told me to consider Jordan my own country and gave me all the facilities. We appreciate all his efforts.

[Qusaybati] In your view, who really rules Iraq now, President Saddam Husayn or his son 'Udayy?

[Hasan] 'Udayy does not rule but he tries to collect money and control others in crooked ways and he tries to rule but does not have the opportunity. He is trying to isolate his father but that is not within his reach at this stage. Saddam rules. 'Udayy's reputation is known in the Iraqi community. He is known for trying to control some officials and ministries but Saddam Husayn is the one who rules.

[Qusaybati] Do you expect a change through force or peacefully? A government in exile or a salvation government including opposition figures from inside and outside the country....

[Hasan, interrupting] We are relying in our work on all Iraqis inside and outside Iraq. Our relations with all the opposition will be good. We will not adopt a negative position toward any group as long as our aim is to change the regime. We will have no personal whims or bad relations with any opposition group. Our prime concern is to change the regime in order to enable Iraq to live a sound life and to enable our country to rid itself of the continuing losses and to move forward with the international community.

[Qusaybati] So you recognize the existence of the opposition, especially the one operating under the banner of the Iraqi National Congress....

[Hasan, interrupting] We acknowledge that there is an opposition, and we shall cooperate fully with all its groups.

[Qusaybati] Are you thinking of visiting Arab states?

[Hasan] Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are in the forefront of the states we wish to visit, for numerous reasons. They are neighbors of Iraq and two Arab states that care about Iraq's interests and status. We are thinking of visiting Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to explain our position and to [seek] their help to get rid of that (Iraqi) regime.

[Qusaybati] What is your position toward those who expressed reservations about you?

[Hasan] That matter does not concern us. We have bigger concerns. The most important thing is to change the regime. If others have different views, that is up to them. We will not be dissuaded from our work and aim. We will interact with any point they raise, and if we find any positive point, we will be willing to accept it. Our program of action is to serve our country, Iraq, and our Arab people.

[Qusaybati] You saw King Husayn's speech. How would you assess its dimensions, as he clearly criticized the Iraqi leadership's policy?

[Hasan] King Husayn's position is courageous and is respected by all Iraqis. And all Iraqi groups are bound to support it. Because he further accentuated the Iraqi mistakes and caused the Iraqis to be more aware of the mistakes of the present regime in Iraq — which is very important. We are very grateful for the courage of His Majesty King Husayn and his decision to host us and provide us with a base for our work. Had it not been for Jordan, Iraq's road would have been difficult and Iraq would have been divided internally. It is a pan-Arab position adopted by Jordan, but the Iraqi

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Government does not understand that. Jordan has direct and important influence on the Iraqi scene and over the Iraqi Government itself.

[Qusaybati] Do you intend to stay in Amman?

[Hasan] King Husayn has offered us more than we need — which we will never forget. We will never forget the stances of his majesty the king. However, the arena for action will be our Arab homeland. We will go wherever we encounter a response from our Arab brothers. Jordan will be our fixed base, and we shall always return to it.

[Qusaybati] In the framework of your care for Iraq's interests, are there any documents or information that you have not submitted to Ekeus?

[Hasan] There are numerous secrets, the secrets of our country and Army, all conventional weapons cannot be discussed. Baghdad handed to Ekeus numerous documents about weapons. It was Baghdad, not we, that started it. It hastily summoned him (head of the special committee), expressing willingness to offer more than it had offered. It promised him to provide further information. This is a positive thing that will help to get the embargo lifted. Originally Baghdad was not prepared to do that, but for our defection. They (the Iraqi leadership) feel they are under threat since our defection. They are trying to satisfy international powers, because they know that there is a serious move toward changing them. They did not sense that before our defection.

[Qusaybati] The Kuwaiti POW's issue is still outstanding. You held prominent positions in the state. Is Iraq still holding Kuwaiti prisoners?

[Hasan] Indeed there were POW's. But my work was not in this field. I have information that I will reveal at the right time.

[Qusaybati] We recall that Baghdad offered Washington in the past to provide information — which it described as important — about the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York. Do you have any details about this information?

[Hasan] Baghdad used that method to win over the Americans. But that information is of no value, and the Americans knew about it. Baghdad wanted to have the blockade lifted.

[Qusaybati] Media services in Baghdad are continuing a campaign of accusations against you....

[Hasan, interrupting] Iraqi media services are making false accusations against numerous Iraqis abroad. The regime too makes accusations against any Iraqi, saying that there are mistakes needing to be corrected, immediately accusing him of working for U.S. intelligence. The president of the republic, (Deputy Prime Minister) Tariq 'Aziz, (Oil Minister) 'Amir Rashid, and even the health minister have begun to launch accusations against us. Is everyone who leaves Iraq an agent? Was he [Saddam] not outside the regime, working against it? Has he forgotten that he departed for Syria and Egypt? So was he an agent for U.S. intelligence?

The Iraqi people know us well. They know our stances in the service of Iraq. All (Iraqi) officials knew that our sharp criticisms were aimed at rectifying matters — and everyone understands us now — in order to cause a violent shock to that regime. The Iraqis now understand that the regime is confused. They understand how the facts are being falsified. The regime has attributed all negative characteristics — swindling, theft, and deception — to Husayn Kamil. So why was Husayn Kamil appointed to take charge of a number of ministries for such a long time, when these characteristics apply to him? It was he that established the special guard, the special security guard, and the Republican Guard. Who established a third river in Iraq, from west Iraq to the sea? Who altered the course of the Euphrates to add new lands to Iraq? These lands were in the past submerged under water, and the other part was a desert. They know that I was the only one capable of carrying out that work. They (the Iraqi leadership) tried to level idle accusations at us. The Arabs and the international community know that Husayn Kamil is working for no one except Iraq and our Arab world. And that I had no contacts with the outside world before I decided to work against the regime. Tariq 'Aziz stated after my defection that he was the one in charge of the negotiations with the United Nations (and the special committee). The following day he [Tariq 'Aziz] said that Gen. Husayn Kamil was the one in charge of these negotiations and that it was he [Husayn Kamil] who concealed the information. After Husayn Kamil's arrival in Jordan, they moved eight large containers to his private farm (in Iraq). Ekeus knew that they had been moved there recently and that they contained information. I am very happy at their accusations, because they reveal the truth about that regime. They also reveal the truth about its fraud, lies, and blackmail, of which the world is aware.

The Iraqis are asking about all the projects implemented by Husayn Kamil. They can see the contradiction between the decision to entrust him with responsibilities and the bad characteristics attributed to him these days. We hope that God will help our people and rid them of their predicament. We hope that security will be restored in Iraq in order to begin to deal with the Arabs in the spirit of pan-Arabism. We hope that it will live a dignified life, enjoy its wealth, of which the regime has deprived it, and cooperate with its brothers, especially

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the neighbors. Our aim is a political pluralism based on the freedom of the parties and the press, an elected parliament, and recognized and respected human rights.

[Qusaybati] There have recently been contradictory reports of contacts between you and Barzan al-Tikriti.

[Hasan] Barzan knows that I cannot agree to deal with him. I have been in dispute with him since 1979. He knows the reason. That is, the injustice, oppression, and aggression against many Iraqi citizens, some of whom were killed or imprisoned and others robbed of their money. Within the boundaries of his financial relations at present, Barzan is with and against the regime at the same time. I do not trust that man, nor will I ever deal with him. He is no different from the regime, which has caused me to abandon and work against it.

Husayn Kamil Says Baghdad Revealing 'All Secrets'

NC2808100995 Paris AFP in English 0933 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 28 (AFP)—Iraq is revealing all its secrets on its banned weapons of mass destruction to the United Nations, Iraqi defector General Husayn Kamil Hasan told a newspaper on Monday [28 August].

"Baghdad has revealed a huge amount of information and it is in the process of handing over the rest," Hasan told the Arabic weekly AL-WASAT.

It was the first time Hasan — considered the architect of Iraq's advanced weapons programmes — made a positive comment about Baghdad since he defected to Jordan on August 8.

Hasan, former industry minister and a son-in-law of President Saddam Husayn, also said Iraq had set up contacts with Israel.

Iraq gave the head of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, new information on its biological, nuclear and ballistic missile programmes when he visited Baghdad 10 days ago.

Baghdad said the information, which revealed that its germ warfare programme was much bigger than previously thought, had been concealed from the UN by Hasan before his defection.

"Baghdad recently revealed all information, and if there is any yet to be given I am convinced of the importance of divulging everything on weapons of mass destruction," Hasan told the London- based newspaper.

"With regard to conventional weapons it is not up to me to reveal anything on this subject. It concerns our army and we don't have to reveal anything to anybody," he said.

Under 1991 Gulf War ceasefire resolutions, UNSCOM must verify that Iraq has dismantled its weapons of mass destruction and installed long-term arms monitoring before an oil embargo imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait can be lifted.

Ekeus said Iraq revealed that it had missiles and bombs loaded with germ warfare agents ready to use against its neighbours in late 1990. As recently as earlier this month Baghdad denied having developed an offensive biological weapons programme.

The UNSCOM chief travelled on to Amman early last week to cross check the new information with Hasan.

Hasan told AL-WASAT that Baghdad began to establish contacts with Israel in 1987, initially through a director of a US bank who was of Iraqi origin and named 'Abbud.

"These contacts took place in Egypt and were interrupted in 1988," he said. Recent contacts took place through Barzan al- Tikriti, Saddam's half-brother and Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Hasan said.

Iraq and Israel both denied reports of contacts last year.

Hasan also said Iraq had contacts with militant organisations, though he denied reports that the head of the radical Fatah- Revolutionary Council, Abu-Nidal, was in Baghdad.

"These ties have continued with some Arab and Palestinian organisations but they have been cut with Abu-Nidal's movement," he said.

Defector Met Israel's Beilin in Amman in May

JN2808090995 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 30 Aug 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed diplomatic sources have revealed that a meeting was held between Husayn Kamil and a number of Israeli officials.

AL-HADATH sources said that the meeting was held in Amman on 20 May.

It is believed that Planning Minister Yosi Beilin, who was then deputy foreign minister, headed the Israeli delegation, which met with General Husayn Kamil.

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Three Ministers, Others To Be Fired Over Defection

NC2608153495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam's government has relieved three current ministers from their jobs at their ministries and has forced them to stay at home. Ahmad Murtada, minister of transport and telecommunications; Humam 'Abd-al-Ghafur, minister of higher education and scientific research; and Nizar al-Qasir, minister of irrigation, were among those included in the decision. They were called in over the past two weeks to face a special inspection commission chaired by Saddam's personal secretary, which interrogated them and investigated their personal and official relations with General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid.

Informed sources in Baghdad report that the decree dismissing the three ministers and a large number of ministry secretaries general and heads of institutions will be issued at the end of August.

Radio on Increasing Defections, Troop Movements

JN2708155995 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite our people's great suffering as a result of the economic embargo and the regime's terrorist policy, citizens these days are deriving amusement from the news of the ruling family and its stinking scandals. They are aware of the tyrant's state of ignominy, that he is awaiting the hour of his removal, which is now very close, now that erosion and cracks are apparent in its repressive organs, which are disappearing and hiding from the eyes of the citizens for fear of people's punishment when the hour of reckoning comes.

Reports reaching us from Baghdad say that the capital is in a state of apprehension, awaiting possible events. The security and party organs are incapable of carrying out the tyrant's orders. Numerous orders are being canceled because of the fast pace of events forcing many henchmen to shirk their responsibilities of repression.

Reports say that slogans appeared on walls of departments and sensitive buildings in the cities of al-Thawrah, al-Shu'lah, (al- Bayya'), and al-Kazimiyah calling on the people to be alert and predicting the imminent collapse of the defeatist Saddamist regime.

Desertions and disobedience within the regime's army ranks have increased. Senior army officers have abandoned their units in the wake of increasing indiscipline and the weak control of the tyrant over an army which is now exhausted after 15 years of wars.

Within this context, our sources in the south say that the commander of the Imam 'Ali Air Base in al-Nasiriyah Governorate last week fled with a group of officers after secret orders were issued to arrest them on charges of planning a military coup against the tyrant and his regime. Latest reports say that they fled toward Saudi territory. This reveals that the army and its officers have started a movement to quickly end what remains of the power of the regime which is now living in an unprecedented Arab and international isolation.

Sources of the Islamic revolution mujahidin in Iraq say that the tyrant is now feeling that his end is imminent despite his miserable precautionary measures such as deploying certain units in areas that are seething with anger against the regime which fears that they will rebel at any moment.

Within this context, our sources monitored new movements by the 3d and 4th Army Corps. The sources said that more than 50 tanks have been stationed at their headquarters for fear of any eventuality. This coincided with the transfer of the 10th Armored Brigade to the Mandali district of the Diyala Governorate. The 25th Brigade moved from the al-Jawa'ir in the al-Nasiryah Governoarte with the 45th Brigade to the al-Luhays at the Saudi border.

On another level, the regime has called those born in 1952 to report for duty as of 22 August 1995 to compensate for the shortage of troops resulting from the desertion of tens of thousands of army personnel.

Radio Claims Confusion in Army, Republican Guard

NC2708163395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi regime is currently encountering the worst security situation since the Iraqi people's uprising in 1991. Confusion and chaos permeate the Republican Guard units, the Special Security Forces, the intelligence service, and the Iraqi Army units. A report to this effect from our sources in Iraq says Baghdad is living in expectation of some development. The report says that the people are doing all they can to hoard as much food as they can. At night Baghdad looks like a ghost town, as very few people venture into the streets and traffic is sparse.

According to this report, another serious phenomenon is emerging throughout Iraq and posing a real danger to the regime—the unusual wave of desertions by army officers and soldiers from their barracks, particularly in Baghdad and vicinity.

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Our sources confirm that the security forces are keeping a low profile. Since the defection to Jordan of Saddam Husayn's son-in- law Husayn Kamil and his group, the security forces have been liquidating senior security force commanders. The security forces receive certain orders only to receive different orders soon afterwards, keeping them from performing their duty. The situation has been made worse by clashes within the security units.

In the southern governorates, especially in al-Basrah Governorate, [words indistinct] erosion and disarray in the various government departments and security agencies. Government officials and security force commanders in the area evade their duty. Meanwhile, despite their suffering and difficult living conditions, the people joke about the news and scandals regarding the ruling family and the humiliation of tyrant Saddam and his grim fate.

Opposition Radio Claims Air Force Officers Fled

NC2708152095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to arrivals from south Iraq on 25 August, the commander of the [name indistinct] air base, along with a number of the air base's officers have fled to an unknown destination. The arrivals cited informed sources as saying that the commander and officers of the Imam 'Ali Air Base in al-Nasiriyah Governorate have fled to Saudi Arabia. They said that there were unusual events in al-Nasiriyah Governorate this past week, particularly at the air base and base officers' housing area. Military and internal security units sealed off the air base. Other units deployed in the officers' housing area.

It is worth noting that senior Iraqi Army officers have begun to dissociate themselves from the regime. The commander of the III Corps fled to an unknown destination three days ago.

Clash With Jordan Said To Prompt Ambassador Recall

NC2608160695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam's current government, which is trying to avert a crisis with Jordan as a result of its aggressive policy and intervention in internal Jordanian affairs, has nominated Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal as ambassador to Jordan to replace its current ambassador, whom it is considering recalling to Baghdad.

Arab sources in the Jordanian capital say that the Jordanian Foreign Ministry summoned [Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan] al-Wayyis last week and informed him of the need to observe diplomatic norms and traditions, not to interfere in Jordan's internal affairs, and not to carry out suspicious activities in Jordan.

Information Minister on Jordan Ties, Defection

JN2808094195 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 28 Aug 95 p 19

[Report on interview with Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi by Nayif al-Ma'ani in Baghdad; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has said: We are indebted to the Jordanians and we will never forget this, nor the positions they adopted.

He added: The Jordanian press is a genuine pan-Arab press not only in its dealing with Iraq but all Arabs. It is a serious and responsible press.

He added: Our relations with sisterly Jordan are decades old. They have developed since 1974, and were strengthened after the 1978 Baghdad summit when Iraq insisted that the Arabs should support Jordan, which has the longest confrontation lines with Israel. Huge sums of money were allocated to support Jordan and Palestine at that summit.

Hammadi said: Following the Iranian aggression against Iraq, we called for support for Jordan at the Accord and Reconciliation Summit which was held in Amman. At that summit, we also sought to approve the joint Arab action charter. A development fund was set up, and while Iraq was in a state of war with Iran we contributed $500 million to that fund. As you know, our relations with Jordan increased in all economic and other fields.

The minister said: The United Nations began to besiege Iraq six months before Iraq entered Kuwait, and, if you review the U.S. Congress files, you will find that on 28 February 1990, a decision was made halting all banking facilities to Iraqi imports of U.S. rice because, as they alleged, we encouraged terrorism by giving refuge to Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front] in Baghdad. We told them that he was a Palestinian struggler who had been expelled from his homeland, and that there are similar cases in all Arab countries.

Hammadi said the United States began its war against Iraq with a media war. This was followed by an economic war, and then finally came the military and political war on all fronts. The last of these wars was the allocation of $40 million by former U.S. President Bush for toppling the regime in Iraq, as if the war

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which cost them $90 billion did not provide them with the aspired result. The sum was lately reduced to $19 million. It seems that—and this is a conclusion and not a fact, although it is close to the truth—that the political situation in the Security Council has changed in Iraq's favor over the past years in comparison with previous years. This means that the Security Council is close to adopting a resolution noting that Iraq is meeting its commitments toward the Security Council resolutions.

The Iraqi information minister said that Iraq has fulfilled Paragraph 28 of Security Council Resolution 667, which stipulates that Iraq must fulfill all Security Council resolutions. He added that a decision to lift the embargo has been delayed because the international envoy, Ekeus, is trying to delay the closing of files on the pretext that the files need further examination and scrutiny. When we were about to close these files, we found information that Husayn Kamil Hasan had deliberately concealed to give the Americans justification to maintain the embargo. It seems that the leadership's decision to set the end of August as a deadline for Ekeus to submit his report to the Security Council had played a role in expediting this revelation.

I think they [not further identified] told Husayn Kamil: It is your turn now. You should tell the United Nations that this is the information concealed by Iraq so as to embarrass the states that are siding with Iraq and consequently the embargo will be maintained. But it is said that something good might come out of something bad.

The minister added that Iraq managed to expose this conspiracy. Ekeus was summoned urgently to Baghdad, and we gave him the files we found. Ekeus's later statements on this issue were positive. He asserted that Iraq is cooperating with the international inspection teams.

Hammadi added: The leadership decided to give all the information so as to put this issue behind us. This way, the U.S. Administration will have no excuse left to maintain the unjust embargo, which has exhausted the Iraqi people, who do not deserve all of this.

The Iraqi minister said this situation will not last, no matter how long it takes. The embargo will be lifted. We think that our position is now clearer after providing the inspection committees with all the information needed. Our position is strong despite the hostile threats and rumors, which seek to undermine the Iraqi people's steadfastness.

The minister added that the information which was given concerns the biological aspect and some of it about the missile program, nuclear capability, and [uranium] enrichment programs which Husayn Kamil Hasan had concealed from the United Nations and the inspection teams.

On relations with Jordan after the recent events, the Iraqi information minister said: Our relations with Jordan are strong and close despite everything that has happened. The two peoples have joint interests. We are not against the idea of Jordan reestablishing political, economic, or other ties with any Gulf state, and Jordan knows this very well.

On Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan, the minister said: We are not against the idea of Jordan granting asylum to anyone. This is part of Arab norms and traditions. Ayatollah Khomeyni had sought refuge in Iraq 14 years before the revolution in Iran. The man did not carry out any political activity. When we asked him to carry out political activity against the Shah in 1971, he said: I am a refugee and a man of religion and I do not interfere in politics.

The minister added that after Iraq signed an agreement with the Shah regime, Khomeyni began to work in politics.

The minister said: We have not reached a conviction that Jordan changed its pan-Arab position on Iraq, and we are satisfied with the recent Jordanian statements. He added that Jordan is familiar with the suffering of the Iraqi people and would not harm the interests of Iraq and its people, who are suffering from an unjust blockade for the fifth year.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi concluded his interview with AL-ASWAQ by saying that the two daughters of the Iraqi president are the guests of their uncle, His Majesty King Husayn.

Kuwaiti Rulers Urged To Heed Past 'Lessons'

JN2508172495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Aug 95 p 7

["Sidelines" column by Sabri Hammadi: "Why Is It That Al-Sabah Rulers Do Not Understand?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Five years of significant changes, lessons, and meanings have passed since the 2 August 1990 event, yet the al-Sabah regime continues to pursue its transgressions and outrages against us, indulge in its criminal aggressive behavior, and pursue its vicious conspiratorial role against our people and country. It does not want to understand that its wager on causing more harm and destruction to Iraq and maintaining the embargo on it is a foolish and fruitless one, which has cost it a great deal during the past five years and will cost it even more in the future.

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Throughout the past five years, the al-Sabah rulers, motivated by their hatred, meanness, and political shortsightedness, have behaved without responsibility or conscience toward Iraq in particular and the Arab nation in general. They have offered bribes and gifts generously in order to turn the international community against Iraq. They have also kept making cheap allegations and excuses and fabricating crises in order to distort Iraq's stands and prolong the unfair blockade on their people. They have not spared a single means in order to hurt Iraq, annihilate its people, and undermine its sovereignty, unity, and dignity. But what is the result; and what have they reaped from their reckless policy?

Iraq has remained sound, healthy, and cohesive, holding to its sovereignty and historical leadership, while their evil endeavors have fizzled out and suffered miserable defeat like all vicious conspiratorial attempts. Their billions and millions have vanished into thin air to the point that they have declared their financial and economic bankruptcy. Furthermore, despite all that they have done and spent, and all the agreements and deals they have signed, they still live in panic, not knowing the taste of security and stability.

The problem with al-Sabah rulers is that they have not benefited or learned any lesson from their bitter experiences. They do not want to understand the meaning of the significant changes which have taken place on the international level. They do not want to understand the fact that the old political line they have been following; the line of sabotaging and plotting against Iraq is doomed to fail and that it will only lead to more failure, frustration, and self-destruction.

Paper Commends Russian Statement on Ekeus Mission

JN2708083095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has criticized the flimsy excuses and pretexts the United States has continued to advance to perpetuate the unfair Iraq sanctions and inflict further harm on the Iraqi people.

In an article today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that Iraq's stand and its policy of serious cooperation with the Security Council and the UN Special Commission have won growing appreciation and sympathy from international quarters, which have begun to talk about the importance of fully implementing Paragraph 22 of Security Council Resolution 687, and about the need for the Security Council to take the necessary measures to put this paragraph into effect.

The paper goes on to say: The invitation Iraq sent to the UN Special Commission chairman and members to visit Baghdad to provide them with further information that could close the loopholes in the commission's work regarding the nuclear and biological files prompted the Russian Foreign Ministry's spokesman to reiterate that by so doing Iraq has demonstrated a large measure of integrity, and that Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations could produce a solution to the problematic sanctions imposed by the United Nations since August 1990. This also prompted Rolf Ekeus to stress at the news conference he recently held in Amman that Iraq's cooperation and commitment to the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions will leave the Security Council with no choice but to lift the sanctions.

The newspaper asserts that the seriousness and integrity of the Iraqi position have driven the U.S. Administration into further confusion and contradiction. They have also caused it to resort to its coarse methods and sleazy propaganda, level accusations against Iraq arbitrarily, and fabricate lies against it in a desperate bid to mislead the international community and divert the Security Council from its right course in dealing with the Iraqi issue and the unfair blockade and urge it to forge ahead with echoing its aggressive and wicked policy.

The paper notes that the fact the U.S. Administration has lost its ability to fabricate further lies will incite it to cling to minor and trivial issues in a bid to cause as much confusion and chaos in the world public opinion as possible so as to perpetuate the unjust embargo that has been imposed against the people of Iraq for more than five years.

The newspaper stresses that Iraq's integrity, serious policy, and credibility represents a strong bulwark that will rebuff the U.S Administration's lies, fabrications, and pretexts — which will always remain flimsier than a cobweb. The U.S. Administration 's grip on the Security Council these days seems to have become weaker than it used to be in the past, the paper adds.

Commentary Predicts 'Failure' of U.S. Campaign

JN2608081295 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1745 GMT 25 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother listeners throughout our greater Arab homeland: The Americans' enthusiasm to protect neighbors is greater than the neighbors' enthusiasm to protect their own souls. That is what we see, hear, and observe. If we want to give reasons for this enthusiasm, we will find that the primary cause is hatred for Iraq rather than love for neighbors. Iraq is the

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source of the U.S. pain and the United States has never hidden or tried to conceal this fact.

The United States plays up and fabricates matters against Iraq because it feels that Iraq [words indistinct] what it had wished. Despite the recklessness, fierceness, and stupidity of its 30-state aggression on Iraq, the United States has not realized its important goal.

The United States claims, with malice aforethought, that it stands by its friends when they are exposed to certain critical and serious situations and wants to prove that it continues to adhere to its promise to protect and defend them. The United States has repeated this over and over again because basically it does this to promote its own interests. The United States wants to prove its power and hegemony over the world. It wants to threaten Iraq if it tries to attack its neighbors. But the United States is well aware that Iraq will not do this no matter how it tries to provoke it.

The United States always errs when it judges things by its own standards. The United States does not lose anything by transferring its forces to the Gulf region because it does not pay out of its own pocket but out of the pockets of its friends. Then why the delay? This is a golden opportunity which the United States must exploit.

The United States must understand another most important thing; namely, that Iraq was, continues to be, and will always be true to its principles. It does not attack anyone and does not covet what others have. However, Iraq responds to attacks no matter what the sacrifices. This has been proven by history and is testified to by Arabs and others.

Iraq will continue to serve the Arabs wherever they may be. The U.S. pain will not subside by such trivial behavior. The U.S.-led campaign of lies and disinformation against Iraq will meet with abject failure as did previous attempts.

U.S. Election, Economy Said Behind Crisis

JN2608092795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0635 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has asserted that Iraq and the world have grown accustomed to the U.S. foreign policy ploys, which have been repeatedly exposed.

In an article published today, the paper adds that William Perry's "lie" that U.S. surveillance equipment have observed Iraqi troop concentrations in northern Iraq and southern Iraq has been deflated, because it was based on falsehoods and fabrications made up by the U.S. intelligence services and promoted by the Pentagon and several U.S. officials.

The paper goes on to say that only one week after he made them, William Perry had to retract his lie and related statements.

The paper says that Iraq is well aware that this will not be the last U.S. lie or attempt to exacerbate the situation and shuffle cards. The U.S. Administration, the paper contends, is prompted by a desire to maintain its unwarranted, unethical, and unfair Iraq stand, which is grounded in an effort to perpetuate the unconscionable embargo.

BABIL asserts that the U.S. stand toward Iraq, which is prompted by unmistakable election considerations, is the outcome of the confused U.S. domestic policy, and also of the disappointment of U.S. voters, who voted for Clinton in the hope that he would curb unemployment and reinvigorate the economy, which has seen a downturn.

The paper adds: Since Clinton's assumption of the chief executive office, the U.S. economy has experienced a deterioration, the U.S. indebtedness has increased, and the U.S. budget has suffered a deficit. This has made the U.S. taxpayer suffer under the traumatizing economic pressures in a country known as the greatest on earth in terms of wealth and natural resources.

BABIL goes on to say: The United States has plundered the resources of several world states and used them to augment the Americans' prosperity, which Clinton failed to promote or even protect.

The paper says: These are the reasons that have prompted the U.S. Administration to remedy its budget deficit by fabricating external crises in order to delude the U.S. public into believing that there is a threat to the U.S. national security and interests. By making these claims, the U.S. Administration aims to mobilize the U.S. public behind it.

BABIL concludes by saying that the U.S. Administration's pretexts are exposed on both the U.S. and international scenes.

Paper Criticizes U.S. 'Media Warfare'

JN2608152895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0735 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi newspaper has derided the hostile and fabricated media and political clamor, the beating of war drums by Washington against Iraq, and the abject wager on the possibility of effecting a change in Iraq.

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In an editorial entitled "There Is no Retreat After We Have Reached the Last Point in the Blockade Battle; Our Conclusive Option Is Victory," the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: For many decades, we in Iraq have experienced innumerable forms of media wars through which the enemies sought to make a segment of the Iraqis believe that there is a serious imbalance — which does not exist in reality — to facilitate their mission of interference in Iraq's affairs. However, the awareness by Iraqis has always been more solid and deeper than all hostile media campaigns.

The newspaper emphasizes that: The Iraqis read events through their headlines. They are convinced that the clamor caused by America and its allies here and there is nothing but nonsense and cries that have created worry and instability outside, and not inside, Iraq. All segments of Iraqi society hold fast to their great pillar of safety, that is, belief that American and Zionist hostility toward Iraq vindicates Iraq's political approach and stresses uprightness of its stands. This hostility also shows that the others who are hostile to Iraq and its people are inspired by counterrevolutionary motives and collaboration with colonialism. Therefore, the human element needed for bringing about a counterrevolution does not exist. This is fully known by America and its agents who had to leave Iraq after they became desperate and failed to influence the Iraqi people.

The newspaper adds: The human element in Iraq is absolutely committed to Iraq's interests and future and vehemently rejects scrapping the struggle and sacrifices of the Iraqi people for independence, sovereignty, and elimination of the British colonialism. All Iraqi national forces, ranging from the far right to the far left, including patriotic figures and progressive and religious movements, agree on this position. For more than four decades, the Iraqi people sacrificed the cream of their sons to defend Iraq's freedom, independence, and unity without hesitation and without illusions.

The paper goes on to say: While we listen to radios and news and witness the media warfare around us, we are completely assured and confident that all this warfare is only a buzzing of dirty flies to which all Iraqi families closed their doors and windows. The Iraqis are acting in this way because they have clearly heard and saw how the enemies plan to perpetuate the blockade after all its justifications have collapsed and after making an accurate distinction between those who want to stand by them in their ordeal and those who became professionals in inflicting harm on peoples that cling to their independence, sovereignty, and genuine principles.

It adds: Current events are only bubbles and sores that will burst alone outside Iraq once the media warfare comes to an end and fails to convince an Iraqi child of its ideas. Those who wagered this policy toward Iraq would be successful will suffer bewilderment and trauma like that which afflicts those who stretched their feet into the tomb.

The paper says: The world will no longer be influenced by this media warfare when it realizes that none of the prophesies made by America and its satellites and agencies have materialized. The world will also observe that there will not by two Iraqs because all Iraqis have only one Iraq — that is, the Iraq of Saddam Husayn. None of us are ready to discuss or entertain any idea that affects our eternal belief that the guarantee for crossing and basic national unity in Iraq is adherence to the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

Concluding, the newspaper says: Our steadfastness and rallying behind leader Saddam Husayn and our awareness of the media warfare staged against us will significantly help in keeping the road to the future open and will hinder the plan of America and its satellites to return Iraq to square one regarding the blockade after we have reached the last point.

Authorities Release 21 Egyptians From Prison

NC2608160995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (MENA)— The Iraqi authorities today released from prison 21 Egyptians who had entered Iraq without visas, head of the Egyptian Interests Mission in Iraq Ambassador Rida 'Abd-al-Karim said.

'Abd-al-Karim told a MENA correspondent in Baghdad today that the released prisoners will leave Iraq for Egypt via Jordan by the end of the week.

Remainder To Be Released Soon

NC2708124495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (MENA)— Rida Nasr 'Abd-al-Karim, head of the Egyptian interests mission in Iraq, has stated that 37 Egyptian inmates will benefit from the amnesty issued recently by the Iraqi authorities, noting that so far 26 have been released. In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent in Baghdad today, he said the rest of the inmates will be released in the next few days. He said that he is currently holding contacts with the appropriate Iraqi authorities to release the last 11 inmates. He noted that as soon as they are released, the necessary arrangements will be made

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for their transport to Egypt, as occurred with the earlier groups of released prisoners.

It should be recalled that 11 Egyptian prisoners were released yesterday, the second group of Egyptian inmates to benefit from the Iraqi amnesty. Five other Egyptian inmates who were released last Tuesday had committed crimes not connected with honor. They left Iraq for Egypt on Thursday. The Egyptian inmates who were released yesterday had entered Iraqi territory without visas.

Paper Reports 'Regime' Shelled Village Using Napalm

NC2508203295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] KURDISTAN NWAY newspaper today reported that two helicopters belonging to the Iraqi regime yesterday morning raided the villages of (Dunz Imam), Sar Cham, and (Tsama Khalid), which are located near the town of Kifri. A napalm bomb fell on the village of Sar Cham, but it did not result in any civilian casualties.

The 'Aflaqite forces continued their shelling of the same villages throughout the day. Using 75-mm artillery, the bloody regime's forces also shelled the outskirts of Chamchamal, causing injuries to three children.

Deaths of Talabani, Barzani Men Reported

JN2508192695 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Aug 95 pp 1,3

[Report by Azad Nariman; Kurdish personal and place names as transliterated]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaqlawah — An informed source has disclosed to AL-JUMHURIYAH's correspondent the death of Sayyid Karim Shaykh Islam, alias Mulazim Karim, member of the Political Bureau of Mas'ud Barzani's party and a military official in it. The informed source, who works at the Political Bureau offices of the Kurdistan Democratic Party at the resort of Salah al-Din, Irbil, explained that Sayyid Karim Shaykh Islam was seriously wounded in the battles of Kabki Hamad Agha and Klaw Qasim on 30 July and that he was removed to a hospital in the Iranian town of Khane and later to Nizami Hospital in Tehran, where he died last Thursday. His body was returned to the resort of Salah al-Din yesterday, Friday.

The same informed source said that Wahasta Fattah, alias Fattah Kawani, a military official in Barzani's party, was also killed in the battle of Kabki Hamad Agha. According to the same source, the following were wounded in this battle: Sidad Mulla Mustafa Barzani, brother of Mas'ud who is currently hospitalized in Tehran; and Za'im 'Ali, a military official who is close to Mas'ud. The source said that several military officers under Jalal Talabani were also killed in the battle of Kabki Hamad Agha. They included: Hammah Rikar, a military commander from al-Sulaymaniyah; Shirah Bur, a military official from Rawanduz; and three brothers: Faydallah, Kamaran, and Khayrallah 'Abdallah Rashid. They were all battalion commanders under Jalal. The source disclosed the death of Nazim Khalid Husayn, a military official close to Jalal; and battalion commanders Fakhir 'Abdallah, Fariz 'Abdallah, Ahmad Bi Kay Si, and Rif'at Amin and group leaders 'Aziz Rashid, Jawhar 'Abdallah and Salam 'Abdallah.

KDP, PKK Forces Have 'Violent' Clashes in North

NC2708170095 Paris AFP in English 1612 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 27 (AFP) — An Iraqi Kurd group said Sunday [27 August] it would drive out Turkish Kurd separatists from the border area of northern Iraq following violent clashes at the weekend between the two sides.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), one of the two main Kurdish groups which control northern Iraq, said Turkish Kurds attacked some 20 of its bases near the border with Turkey on Saturday, killing 12 people.

"The KDP will not accept the presence of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in the area under its control in northern Iraq," the group's representative in Ankara Fa'iq Nurwiya said.

"We do not tolerate any threat to civilians and we will do our best to abolish the threat. Our duty is to keep our area safe," he told AFP.

Nurwiya said "hundreds of PKK fighters from the mountains" where they are based in northern Iraq launched a simultaneous attack with light weapons on KDP bases in Dahuk and Zakho areas, "with the aim of seizing control of the sector."

The KDP said in a statement earlier that its fighters counter- attacked with the help of local people and recaptured its bases.

Seven civilians and five KDP fighters were killed and around 40 civilians wounded, it said in the statement. "The PKK men suffered large losses and had to retreat to the mountains," it added.

Nurwiya said the area was calm on Sunday and the KDP had stepped up its presence, especially round its bases.

It is the first time an Iraqi Kurd group has accused the PKK of attacking its bases in northern Iraq.

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The PKK has fighters in the region despite repeated Turkish army incursions to try to destroy their bases, which are used as launch pads for cross-border attacks in their fight for an independent Kurdish homeland in Turkey.

After a huge Turkish military operation from March to April the KDP, which controls the Turkey-Iraq border region, agreed to cooperate with Ankara to ensure security along the border.

Nurwiya estimated that the PKK has up to 2,500 fighters in the KDP-controlled region. "The PKK brought forces from Iran and Syria to coordinate the attack" on Saturday, he said.

The KDP statement said: "This unprecedented attack by the PKK is aimed at taking control of certain areas and sinking the recent peace accord" signed by the KDP and its main rival the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

The KDP and the PUK signed an accord on August 11 in Drogheda, Ireland, aimed at ending a bloody conflict over power and tax revenues which has cost 2,000 lives since it erupted in May, 1994.

On Sunday a PUK leader, Fu'ad Kamal, said the two sides needed to agree on sharing tax and customs revenues as the next step in bringing peace to northern Iraq.

Kamal said he was optimistic the peace process begun at Drogheda would succeed. "We need time and patience to create an atmosphere of confidence not only between the two sides but also between the two populations," he said.

Despite his confidence, however, Nurwiya charged that the PUK had coordinated with the Turkish Kurd rebels in Saturday's attack. "The PUK encourages the PKK," he said.

Latif Rashid, a PUK representative in London, strongly denied such coordination.

"Our position towards the PKK is clear: we support the right of the Kurdish people to obtain its rights (in Turkey) but we are against violence," he said.

"Our organisation is a party for the Kurds of Iraq and our relations with Turkey are good," he added.

Northern Iraq has been controlled by Iraqi Kurds in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War.

Saddam Chairs Meeting Attended by Military Commanders

JN2608121795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has presided over a meeting that included Minister of Defense Fighter Staff General Sultan Hashim Ahmad and several military commanders.

Third Group of Conscripts Called Up for 6 Sep

JN2608150195 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The General Recruitment Directorate [GRD] has called up the third batch of those born in 1977; those who graduated from institutes and colleges during the first semester of the school year 1994-95; draft-dodgers; and those whose deferments have been revoked to report to their recruitment centers on 6 September to mobilize them into military service.

The following is the text of the statement issued by the GRD in this regard:

A statement issued by the GRD.

In accordance with the provisions in Revolution Command Council Decree No. 215 of 26 December 1994, which provides for calling up those born in 1977 to join military service,

First, the GRD calls upon the third batch of the aforementioned people to report to their recruitment centers on 6 September 1995 to join military service. This group includes the following:

A. Conscripts born in 1977 regardless of whether their service has been postponed, or whether they were surplus when the second batch of those born in 1977 was mobilized.

B. Institute graduates who completed their studies in the first semester of the school year 1994-95.

C. College graduates who completed their studies in the first semester of the school year 1994-95.

D. Draft-dodgers and those whose deferments have been revoked regardless of age and the excuses in question.

Second, those covered in Paragraphs A, B, C, and D above must bring with them the following documents and certificates:

1. Civil affairs identity card and a certificate of Iraqi nationality, or copies thereof.

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2. Four recent photos for those who have not been issued military service documents.

3. A document of profession for those who have a profession or a specialty.

4. A graduation certificate for institute and college graduates who will report to their previous recruitment centers.

Third, legal procedures will be taken against those who fail to report their recruitment centers as scheduled above.

Fourth, conscripts must bring with them letters showing their educational levels.

[Signed] The director of General Recruitment, who holds the rank of staff major general

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Peres: Extradition of 'Terrorists' 'Impossible'

TA2708154995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Peres says that following a legal check, Israel will not be able to demand the extradition of the two terrorists who were tried in Jericho.

He noted that he will meet with Yasir 'Arafat next week, expressing the hope that all problems in the negotiations on the interim agreement with the Palestinians will be solved next week.

Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i spoke with Minister Peres a short while ago, prior to his departure with Yosi Beilin for al-'Aqabah aboard King Husayn's plane.

[Begin recording] [Vilna'i] Israel does not have a stand [ma'amad] on the issue of the extradition of the terrorists from Jericho to Israel. This was stated by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to his departure for al-'Aqabah.

[Peres] We checked this matter from the legal standpoint. We can ask for extradition if the wanted men perpetrated the crime on Israeli territory, but since they did not do so and their involvement is in Jericho, it is impossible to ask for their extradition.

[Vilna'i] Was what the Palestinian Authority did a violation of the agreement?

[Peres] No, no. We checked this with both the justice minister and the attorney general.

[Vilna'i] We asked Peres about another issue too, about the agreement with the Palestinians. He expressed the hope this will be the last week of talks with the Palestinians in Elat. There are a hundred people on each side. Peres said he has read the 260 pages of the final formula adding:

[Peres] Secondary problems remain — I hope they will be solved in Elat this week — as well as basic problems which will probably be solved on a higher level next week. The possibility certainly exists that the signing will take place in September, although we have not determined a date. September 7 seems too early to me. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Official Fears Hamas Trial 'Ploy'

TA2708053595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yo'el Singer, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, says that the circumstances under which the two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] suspects were tried in Jericho are strange, adding that Israel should check whether this is not a mere ploy. Singer told Qol Yisra'el that according to the Oslo accord, the Palestinian Authority [PA] does not have any judicial authority with regard to violations committed in Israel, a military area, or an Israeli settlement.

Referring to the negotiations with the Palestinians, Singer said that the agreement with the Palestinians will not be completed by 7 September.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 27 August carries a live telephone interview with Singer by moderator Yoram Ronen, in which Singer says: "I do not think it wi!! be possible to hold the signing ceremony on 7 September. We, at least, have never spoken of this date; I believe it was only mentioned in the press. It seems to me much more likely that if the signing ceremony is indeed held during the month of September, it will take place during the second or third week of the month."]

Paper Comments on Extradition Contradictions

TA2808125695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Extradition Fiasco"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government cannot have it both ways. It cannot impose a closure on Jericho for not extraditing two wanted Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists — 'Abd-al- Majid Dudin and Rashid al-Khatib — and simultaneously state, as Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Justice Minister David Liba'i did yesterday, that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is not obligated to extradite them.

Unlike the recent closure on Gaza, which was purportedly intended to prevent a suicide bomber from entering Israel, the closure on Jericho was clearly imposed as a form of pressure. There is, after all, no danger that the two terrorists will cross the line to Israel: they are both in custody after a swift trial in which they were sentenced to prison terms.

Nor is it clear why Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin insisted on the transfer of these two accomplices of terrorists while allowing the Palestinian Authority to keep Wa'il Nassar — the Hamas recruit who is said to have planned a suicide attack in Israel — in a Gaza prison, from which he has been promised early release.

To make Israel's position even more awkward, the reason for the closure, initially cited as a means to force the Palestinian Authority to extradite Dudin and al-Khatib, has now been changed to something else. According to "senior political sources," the purpose of the closure is no longer to attain their extradition but to

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flush out Muhyi-al-Din Sharif, suspected of delivering the pipe bomb to the suicide bomber who blew up bus No. 26 in Jerusalem last week, and who is believed to be in Jericho.

With Peres and Liba'i supporting the PA position, delving into the legal points of the agreement to prove that Hamas terrorists are extraditable is a futile exercise. Not that the Cairo agreement is unclear on the issue. It states that Israel has the right to demand the transfer of individuals "suspected of, charged with, or convicted of an offense that falls within Israeli criminal jurisdiction." And that "Nothing...shall derogate from Israel's criminal jurisdiction in accordance with its domestic laws over offenses committed outside Israel (including in the Territory) against Israel or an Israeli." This seems to contradict Peres's contention that only terrorists who commit crimes on sovereign Israeli soil are extraditable.

Clearly, if the PA truly had an interest in fighting terrorism effectively, it would extradite terrorists to Israel. But there seems to be no such interest. Dudin and al-Khatib escaped to Jericho several months ago; al-Khatib as far back as December 1994. Knowing of their whereabouts, Israel asked the PA to arrest them. But until last week the Palestinian Police let them move openly and freely in Jericho streets and cafes.

Only after last week's bus bombing did Jibril al-Rujub's Preventive Security Service [PSS] arrest and try them, most likely to preempt an Israeli extradition demand. The indictments against them in the PSS court, where neither lawyers nor family members were allowed to be present, made no mention of Hamas or terrorist activities. The two were charged with "harming the interests of the Palestinian Authority," and "activity harmful to general security... in connection with the political negotiations." It would be foolhardy in the extreme to expect them to serve the full terms of their respective 12- and seven-year sentences.

This is not the first time that Israel's request for extradition has been rejected by the PA. As pointed out by the non-partisan organization Peace Watch, which monitors Israeli and Palestinian violations of the Oslo agreements, the PA has failed to comply with seven Israeli requests for the extradition of 14 wanted terrorists.

What these refusals make clear is that the PA is not about to do what Rabin and Peres once hoped they would do: combat terrorists who act against Israel. Al-Rujub's comment about Hamas seems to reflect the relationship between the Palestinian Authority and the Islamic organizations. He said, "Hamas is a popular and legitimate Palestinian movement. Our agreement with them is they do not mount operations in Jericho or from Jericho."

Neither his security force nor any of the other eight PA armed forces wants to act as Israel's "collaborators." On the contrary: both Yasir 'Arafat and every other major PA figure continue to glorify and aggrandize the "martyrs" of the Palestinian struggle even as they pay lip service to the condemnation of terrorism.

That the PA's display of reluctance to cooperate with Israel in the fight against terrorism has coincided with revelations of one of the most extraordinary Israeli successes in uncovering terrorist cells should give the government pause. The more territories the PA controls, the easier it will be for terrorists to find shelter and the more difficult for Israel to harvest useful intelligence. If nothing else, the fiasco around the extradition from Jericho should serve as a warning that in fighting terrorism Israel can count only on itself.

Jericho Closure To Continue Thru 30 Aug

TA2708050795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The army lifted the closure on the West Bank at 0400 this morning, but the closure on Jericho remains in effect. Israel sealed off the area following Monday's bus attack in Jerusalem.

The Palestinian Authority [PA] has refused Israel's demand for the two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members it has in custody. The two are suspected of involvement in the attack.

PLO official Sa'ib 'Urayqat said that 'Abd-al-Majid Dudin, sentenced by a Jericho court yesterday to 12 years in prison, and Rushdi al-Khatib, who received a seven-year term, will remain incarcerated in Jericho. A senior Palestinian security officer said the two were part of the Hamas network responsible for the Jerusalem bombing. A senior Palestinian officer said Dudin was directly involved in the attack but claimed that under the Israel-PLO agreement, the PA is not obliged to extradite him to Israel.

Israeli security sources say Dudin has been on Israel's wanted list for several months, and he has been hiding in Jericho for a long time. They say this indicates that Jericho has become a refuge for Palestinian terrorists. Israel has informed the PA that if the two Hamas members are not handed over, the closure of Jericho will continue through Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Police are still looking for a third man, Muhyi al-Din Sharif, who allegedly delivered the bomb to the suicide terrorist.

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[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 27 August carries a related report by Yoni Ben-Menahem, adding: "The Palestinian Police in Gaza are continuing to track down Yahya 'Ayyash, the Engineer. Israel has relayed to the Palestinians information on 'Ayyash obtained during the interrogation of terrorists."

["The last reliable information concerning his presence in Gaza is from a month and a half ago, but Israeli sources believe he is still in the Gaza Strip.

["'Ayyash is the head of Hamas' military arm in Judaea and Samaria, while the terrorist Muhammad Dhif, alias Abu-Khalid, is the head of Hamas' military arm in the Gaza Strip. Security sources say the coordination and cooperation between the two is extremely dangerous, because the two are sending suicide terrorists out in all directions. Muhammad Dhif, for example, is responsible for the attacks carried out at Jerusalem's International Convention Center and the Nahalat Shiv'a neighborhood."]

'Terrorist' Search Believed Reason for Closure

TA2708185995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Aug 95

[Talk in the studio between moderator Hayim Yavin and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Yavin] It seems that the closure on Jericho was imposed for operational reasons and is not at all connected with the demand that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists who were tried in Jericho be extradited to Israel. Political circles confirm that the extradition demand is not anchored in the Oslo Accords. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik — is this an Israeli fiasco?

[Sukenik] I am not sure. It may not be, but those who think the closure was put on Jericho for five days because of the demand for the extradition of the two Hamas terrorists who were captured and tried by the Palestinian Authority are mistaken. It happens that according to the agreements, Israel does not have a case to demand their extradition now; it may have a reason for this, but the Palestinians have no reason to extradite them, not today. There was no consultation with any legal element before the closure was imposed, if that was the reason for it indeed.

[Yavin] So, how can we submit such a demand for extradition?

[Sukenik] It also became clear that no formal demand for extradition has been submitted. There were high-level feelers, but no such demand has been passed on. Why was Jericho closed then? The reason now remaining is the attempt to capture Muhyi-al-Din Sharif, the third terrorist connected with the Jerusalem attack. He has not been captured yet and he is apparently in Jericho. The security forces want to catch him, and Jericho was closed to prevent his escape. There is no official confirmation, but this is probably the reason for the closure. [passage omitted]

Shahal Signs Order To Close 3 Palestinian Offices

TA2708161295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A few minutes ago the police minister signed an order directing the closure of three Palestinian institutions that are acting illegally in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky has the initial details:

[Bushinsky] A few minutes ago in his office, the police minister signed the order closing down three institutions. He sat with representatives of the security branches, the Shin Bet, and police elements. After perusing the intelligence information that has arrived recently on this issue, it was decided to close the Palestinian statistics office, the health office, and an office of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation [PBC] headed by Radwan Abu-'Ayyash.

This means that tomorrow morning, Ze'ev Even-Hen, head of operations, will present a warning to these three institutions, and within 96 hours, if they do not close by themselves — if the office owners do not close them — the police minister will announce the closure of the institutions and their activities. According to the information reaching the police minister, illegal Palestinian activity takes place there on behalf of the Palestinian Authority. If no change takes place within 96 hours, the police minister will send Jerusalem District police officers who will deliver the closure order and seal the offices.

We were informed by Palestinian elements that they intend to show that there is no Palestinian activity in these offices. For example, we were told that the PBC office has already been moved to Ramallah. Again, if there is no change within 96 hours, the Jerusalem police will physically close the three offices.

Peres Doubts Closure To Hurt Talks

TA2808062195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ya'el Dan and Gil Yerushalmi on 28 August; place not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Dan] Good morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

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[Peres] Good morning.

[Dan] Are you in favor of closing the three Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem?

[Peres] I am, if they violated the law. I am in favor of upholding the law. The offices have received a warning, and if they fail to obey, they should be closed down.

[Dan] Can you explain the law in this regard? The Palestinians are saying that the closure runs counter to both your promise to preserve Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem and the Oslo accords.

[Peres] Any office that existed prior to the Oslo accord should remain intact; however, as you know, Jerusalem is outside the interim arrangement between us and the Palestinians, and there is no reason, therefore, to preserve Jerusalem institutions that deal with matters pertaining to the Palestinian Authority [PA]. This is self-evident. No promise was given. Even in my most recent talks with the Palestinians, they understood they would be unable to keep PA offices in Jerusalem.

[Dan] They say the offices operated before Oslo.

[Peres] They could not have, because there was no PA. How could they have?

[Dan] Then how do you understand the remarks of Ahmad al-Tibi, who said in no uncertain terms that the move contravenes your letter and your promises?

[Peres] I do not have to interpret Ahmad al-Tibi's remarks. I do not think Ahmad al-Tibi has any special job as a judge or commentator.

[Yerushalmi] Mr. Peres, you will meet with 'Arafat next week in an attempt to finalize the interim arrangement. Are you not afraid the closure of the institutions will impede the talks?

[Peres] No. Look, we act in accordance with the law. We will act in accordance with the law with regard to Jerusalem just as we did with regard to the Jericho issue. You cannot draft an agreement and then create loopholes that allow you to circumvent it. We have told 'Arafat as much. By the way, in the course of our talks, both Nabil Sha'th and Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] repeatedly promised that they would get rid of any Jerusalem office that deals with PA affairs.

[Yerushalmi] Such as Orient House, for example?

[Peres] Orient House existed before. Anyway, Orient House is a building; the question is what goes on inside the building. Affairs pertaining to the PA should not be addressed inside that building.

[Yerushalmi] Is Orient House operating in accordance with the law today?

[Peres] The police are investigating it. Some things are legal; others may be illegal.

[Yerushalmi] Is the intention to close it down?

[Peres] The Palestinians will be given warnings as required by law, and if they abide by the agreement, Orient House will remain open. If they do not, appropriate legal measures will be taken.

[Dan] Mr. Peres, newspapers cite your aides as saying that you are opposed to this move. Are they completely off track?

[Peres] I have seen no such quotes. Where were they published?

[Dan] MA'ARIV cites people close to you who said Peres would undoubtedly prefer not to close them down.

[Peres] I know nothing about this. The people close to me failed to inform me.

[Dan] Do you not fear the move will hinder the talks? The Palestinians are threatening to take steps.

[Peres] First of all, it is not the Palestinians who are threatening. I think Mr. Faysal al-Husayni really went too far with his activities in Jerusalem, and now it is backfiring on him. I think he should have known there is a clear limit, because Jerusalem is outside the interim arrangement. This is obvious and self- evident. [passage omitted]

[Dan] Are you satisfied with the progress of the peace process with Jordan, Mr. Peres?

[Peres] Yes. You know, last night the king spoke of peace with genuine enthusiasm. In our two private conversations and at dinner, he spoke with a great deal of warmth toward and faith in Israel. It has been a long time since I heard Israel referred to in as warm and friendly terms as I did at King Husayn's palace in al-'Aqabah last night.

[Dan] Thank you, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Another Hamas 'Terrorist' Organization Uncovered

TA2708181895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Aug 95

[Moshe Nussbaum video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the last few days, and in cooperation with the Israel Police and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Shin Bet exposed the planners and commanders of the squads involved in two terrorist attacks in Jerusalem at the end of last year — at the Nahalat Shiv'a Mall and the Jerusalem International Convention Center [JICC]. In an announcement issued

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this evening, the Israel Police say that the members of these squads planned a long series of terrorist acts. The exposure of these squads is the result of an intense investigation by the Shin Bet in the wake of uncovering those responsible for the bus bombings in Ramat Gan and Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports.

[Begin Nussbaum recording] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] cells in Judaea, Samaria, and East Jerusalem were behind the terrorist incident on 9 October last year at Jerusalem's Nahalat Shiv'a Mall. Two were killed and several dozens were wounded as a result of mad shooting. The two terrorists were transported to the site and briefed by Ayman Sidr from Abu-Dis, who was detained in the last few days. Detained along with him was one of the heads of the cells, Hatim Isma'il, who also took part in the planning of another terrorist attack near the JICC in December 1994. In that attack, the terrorist was killed and 13 civilians were wounded.

The discovery of the planners and commanders of the squads involved in these attacks by the Shin Bet and the Jerusalem police followed the interrogation of terrorist 'Abd-al-Nasir 'Isa who stood behind the two murderous bus bombings in Ramat Gan and Jerusalem. The detention of the members of these cells foiled a series of attacks that the terrorists were about to carry out, preparations for some of which had already been completed. These plans were for were a suicide attack at the Jerusalem Central Bus Station, a suicide attack on a bus in the Tel Aviv area, the kidnapping of two soldiers to bargain for the release of terrorists from prisons, the killing of a settler in the Samaria region, the planting of a bomb on a train in the Jerusalem area, and the killing of a settler in the Gaza Strip.

As noted, this cell managed to perpetrate only two of the series of murderous attacks it had planned. [end recording]

Levin: Lebanese To 'Suffer' If Hizballah Reacts

TA2508124795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General 'Amiram Levin, commander of the Northern Command, this morning warned the residents of south Lebanon that if Hizballah were to operate against Israel in reaction to the elimination of the three terrorists in south Lebanon last night, the residents will consequently suffer. He made the remark in a conversation with our correspondent Shay Razi'eli while visiting the soldier who was badly wounded in yesterday's operation.

The general said that a unit of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] infantry operated in a rough mountainous region, eliminated the terrorists, and returned to Israeli territory.

Deputy Minister on Bombing, Negotiations, Elections

BR2508150995 Brussels LE VIF-L'EXPRESS in French 25-31 Aug 95 p 36

[Report on interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Elie Dayan by Hesi Carmel on 22 August 95; place not given: "The Devotees of Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The day after the Monday morning attack on a Jerusalem bus that resulted in a provisional death toll of five and around 100 injured, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Elie Dayan explains the possible consequences of this further act of terrorism on his government's attitude and current negotiations with Yasir 'Arafat. A young Labor Party member of parliament, until his recent appointment alongside the Israeli foreign minister, Elie Dayan was seen as a pillar of the government coalition in the Knesset.

[Carmel] In your opinion, does the fact that this latest attack took place in Jerusalem mark an escalation?

[Dayan] It is indeed an escalation. Not because of the choice of the capital, but because on every occasion terrorism leaves more innocent victims. But it is too soon to confirm the identity of those responsible for this recent suicide attack. Hamas claimed responsibility to Israeli radio, but we do not take this claim at face value.

[Carmel] Are you satisfied with Yasir 'Arafat's cooperation in the fight against terrorism?

[Dayan] No. Certainly there has been a certain amount of cooperation over recent months and the Palestinian Authority has carried out a number of specific actions. But we believe the Palestinians can do much more, and we are going to require them to be more effective. Like Ben-Gurion, who in his days had to make a number of very painful and very unpopular decisions with the Israeli public and even brought the risk of civil war, Yasir 'Arafat must for his part also show courage and initiative in order to hunt down and punish the terrorists.

[Carmel] Negotiations with the Palestinian Authority have been interrupted this week. For how long?

[Dayan] They are to start again on Monday morning in Eilat, but they cannot start now until after the funerals. Despite the attacks, we intend to obstinately pursue the negotiations and obtain as much progress as possible by the beginning of September. We will be stressing two points of priority importance for Israel: security and the water problem.

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[Carmel] When do you expect to see Palestinian elections?

[Dayan] Ramadan starts in mid-January 1996. The elections in the Gaza Strip and the Territories should therefore be held in late December or early January at the latest.

[Carmel] A few days ago the Israeli press revealed the scandal of Egyptian prisoners executed during the Suez War and the Six-Day War. What is the reason for these revelations so long after the events? Are there political considerations behind the timing?

[Dayan] I do not believe there are political motives. I believe the affair was sparked off by an article in the Israeli newspaper DAVAR which reported an incident included in a book to be published on the 1956 war. These are in fact pre-publication extracts. The other revelations concerning the 1967 war have not been proved. If they are proved, that is something else. They must then be strongly condemned, as it would be a serious violation of Israeli Army traditions. If these reports are confirmed, the inquiry should leave no stone unturned and, if the time limit for prosecution has not expired, judicial proceedings should be instigated against those responsible for these outrages.

Shahal on Hamas Warnings, Shin Bet, Demonstrations

TA2508180195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Aug 95

[Interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by Munib Faris, in Shahal's office on 25 August — recorded; in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles, processed from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Faris] Mr. Shahal, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has recently announced that it intends to step up terror attacks on Israel. What does this mean, from our point of view?

[Shahal] It calls for expanded activity to uncover the planners and the perpetrators. The announcements, however, are nothing new. I wish to state that all the estimates and opinions that Hamas has frozen its activities against Israel are untrue. Furthermore, I am not certain that today it is in full control over the various groups in the field that affiliate themselves with Hamas. There are groups of people that operate independently and initiate their own acts without being part of a disciplined system that follows orders from above. I will put it in negative terms: If the Hamas leadership or parts of it were to decide against carrying out a terror attack, I doubt that all the groups would heed this.

[Faris] Does this include calls by senior Hamas members from Damascus, Jordan, or even Europe to attack Israel?

[Shahal] The groups are interconnected. We have been aware of the issue of orders coming from Damascus for a long time, and it is certainly a significant fact that the operations that take place in the territories originate from outside the boundaries of Israel under a new framework, namely Damascus. In Damascus they, mainly President al-Asad, should know that it is impossible to build confidence by locating centers for terror activity against Israel in Syria.

[Faris] Has Israel demanded that the Palestinian Authority [PA] step up its war on terrorism?

[Shahal] We are in a constant dialogue with the PA, and I would like to say that there is a willingness to cooperate. I believe that over the past several months the PA has realized that fighting the terrorists is a PA and Palestinian interest. The Islamic Jihad and Hamas squads do not and will not hesitate to act against the Palestinian Police and the PA. Such incidents have occurred; shots have been fired at the heads of the Gaza police. I would say there is an understanding that eliminating this wave is an interest we both share which could serve as the basis for cooperation. There is more understanding and more cooperation, and I believe results will follow.

[Faris] Mr. Minister, is the Shin Bet really restricted in its interrogations or did the head of the Shin Bet act wrongly, as was published recently, and failed to use every means at his disposal in some of the recent interrogations the Shin Bet conducted?

[Shahal] I personally believe that the recent restrictions imposed on the Shin Bet do harm its ability to conduct investigations of dangerous and immediate cases. The debate is not over. I only hope that we will find an appropriate solution. I believe that today the Shin Bet is more restricted, and that this does harm its ability to conduct interrogations. I believe, therefore, it should be given wider powers, but under supervision and within the framework of the law.

[Faris] Yesterday we witnessed serious clashes between demonstrators and the police in which the commander of the Jerusalem District was attacked. Where do you draw the red line?

[Shahal] I believe that the red line was crossed a long time ago because unlicensed demonstrations have been taking place for quite some time. I recommended that the police not stick to formalities and allow protests and demonstrations, but up to a limit — up to the point where the law is grossly violated. The group that calls

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itself Zo Artzenu [This Is Our Land] has crossed the red line. It preaches openly — in writing and orally — violating the law. The police have no alternative but to do their job. Violence did not start with the policemen; we are examining every case. I believe the demonstrators should know and realize that we are a state of law. We will not allow anarchy. I regret the fact that some political figures encourage this instead of condemning it. I hold a very grave view of the fact that in Jerusalem several Knesset members, in fact, called on the demonstrators to raise their hands against policemen, their officers, and even the district commander.

Savir, Al-Rujub Discuss Jericho, Extradition

TA2708160395 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Aug 95

[Interviews with Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, in the studio, and Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in the West Bank on the phone from Jericho, by Amnon Levi — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Levi] Two terrorists connected with the Jerusalem bus bombing have fled to Jericho. The nightmare we have been fearing throughout the peace process — that Gaza and Jericho will become a refuge for terrorists — is happening before our very eyes, is it not, Mr. Savir?

[Savir] No. I believe that what we saw last week is that, contrary to past practice, the Palestinian Authority [PA] is taking steps. Last Friday they arrested people, and yesterday they tried others. This sometimes requires our assistance or pressure, but in general a significant battle has been launched between the PA and the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists.

[Levi] You almost convinced me, but I read the papers today that you are sieging Jericho until the PA reconsiders and hands over the two terrorists. I would say this is the most dramatic confrontation between Israel and the PA that I can recall since the Oslo Accords were signed.

[Savir] I suggest that you wait for tomorrow's papers. The government has other, operational, reasons for imposing this closure on Jericho.

[Levi] We have Jibril al-Rujub on the telephone. You heard the Foreign Ministry director general. Why are you not willing to hand over the terrorists who fled to Jericho, and will you do that in the future?

[Al-Rujub] Primarily, I wish to explain that the Israeli Government made a mistake in requesting the extradition of the wanted men. We are willing to treat anyone seriously who tries to harm the peace process to which we are really committed. I understand the motivation of Mr. Uri Savir who has been courageous all along....

[Levi, interrupting] You are saying that the extradition request was a mistake. Do you agree, Mr. Savir?

[Savir] I believe the mistake was that we waited until they were arrested and tried. This is now a fact. It has been examined by the security echelons. I do not believe that I will help the issue by adding anything at this time. The question is much broader, and it regards the desire, the self-interest, the PA has to confront the terrorists.

[Levi] Mr. al-Rujub, could you please explain the Palestinian justice system: You arrested, investigated, filed charges, tried, and placed the men in prison all within 24 hours. Is this not too fast?

[Al-Rujub] Look, I am not an expert on the legal aspects, but I believe we must and have committed ourselves to try anyone who has or will try to violate the law or harm the peace process, and we will deal with these issues very seriously.

[Levi] Mr. Savir, how do we climb down from this high horse?

[Savir] This is no horse. This is a very serious issue. The PA, the PLO, have moved from performing acts of terror to fighting terrorism. Sometimes, they are not doing enough in this sense. We are in dialogue with them. Various pressures exist. As a rule, the PA must realize, and I believe it does, that the Hamas struggle is meant to murder Israelis and the peace process, and also to replace the PA. The PA, therefore, has every reason to use every possible means in fighting against this violent, ugly, and cruel enemy.

[Levi] I must ask you this: When will you go to Washington for the signing of the Oslo B agreement?

[Savir] We are going back to Elat this evening for a last round of talks. Next week, the leaders will meet to close the loose ends of this agreement. A week later we will have the signing ceremony, apparently in Washington, hoping to begin a new era of self-government and more security.

[Levi] So the new date is mid-September, and the place is Washington. Thank you, Mr. Savir.

Minister on Jerusalem Offices, Extradition Requests

TA2808063995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Justice Minister David Liba'i says Faysal al-Husayni asked to meet with him to explain his arguments and explanations regarding Orient House activities, and a meeting will indeed take place.

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Speaking to our correspondent this morning, the justice minister said the decision to issue a warning to the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem was made when it became obvious that they were conducting activities of an essentially governmental nature. [passage omitted]

Referring to the two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members who were involved in two terrorist attacks in Israel and were tried in Jericho, the justice minister said that if we learn that the two are about to be released from prison, we will either demand their extradition or capture them wherever they are.

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 28 August adds that Minister Liba'i said that "according to the agreement with the Palestinian Authority, Israel cannot ask that the two Hamas terrorists connected to the suicide bus bombers be handed over. Liba'i said Israel could only make the request if there was evidence that the two had operated out of territory under Israeli control. However, the justice minister did say that Israel would again seek the extradition of 14 other people suspected of carrying out terror attacks. Liba'i said the original requests had not been properly prepared."

[The reports adds that "the Palestinian Authority in Jericho sped up the trial of the two Hamas activists after Israeli security officials requested that the men be arrested. Qol Yisra'el's political reporter says the Palestinian Authority tried them in order to create a situation that would allow the Palestinians to keep the men in custody."]

Disputes To Be Referred to Political Echelon

TA2708081995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Briefings on the state of the negotiations with the Palestinians were presented this morning during a consultation held by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with various officials. The participants agreed that the controversial problems should be referred to the political echelon for it to handle, because it alone can overcome the differences of opinion. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that the issues referred to include, among others, Hebron and the release of prisoners.

Right-Wing Rally Fails To Attract Large Crowd

TA2808105795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Aug 95 p 5

[Report by Arye Bender, Golan Yosifun, Tal Shahaf, and Menahem Rahat]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The rally held by the Likud yesterday near the site of the Ramot Eshkol attack should trouble two people: Binyamin Netanyahu and Yitzhaq Rabin.

If, only one week after the attack and the ensuing shock and in a right-wing city like Jerusalem, Netanyahu managed to attract only a few hundred citizens, some of them members of the Betar Youth Movement brought to the place by organized transportation and others ultra-Orthodox Jews who are not Likud voters, then he has good reason to be concerned. It is the settlers and the ultra-Orthodox who are setting the tone in the street.

Rabin can be encouraged by the relatively small number of Likud supporters who showed up at yesterday's rally. He should definitely be concerned, however, about the profound hatred and rancor shown him by the right-wing street. Every time the names Rabin, Peres, and Sarid, as well as those of their colleagues, were mentioned, the crowd vilified them vociferously.

Kakh youths in the area incited the crowd and inspired the Betar youths to shout "Rabin is a traitor"; "We will chase Rabin away with blood and fire"; and "Trash, trash." It should be said for Netanyahu that he urged the crowd to show restraint and to refrain from shouting such insults.

"It is wrong to say that Rabin is a traitor or a murderer. Rabin is making a grave mistake, however, and both he and his government will pay a heavy price in the elections," Netanyahu said, although the crowd was not particularly delighted by this. [passage omitted]

Paper Doubts Saddam's Motive in Reporting Arsenals

TA2708093195 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Aug 95 p 9

[Editorial: "Sanctions Stuck in Saddam's Throat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The outcome expected from the defection of Saddam Husayn's son-in-law Husayn Kamil has not been achieved yet: The Baghdad regime may be tottering, but it is definitely not down. It is more likely that Iraq will soon be closer to being rid of the sanctions imposed by a UN resolution following its invasion of and expulsion from Kuwait over four years ago. An examination of these two facts may lead

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one to the assumption — which is not improbable when the subject is as cunning and as consummate a survivor as Saddam — that perhaps the amazing defection was merely an ingenious hoax designed to furnish Saddam with a pretext to reveal new secrets to the team of inspectors headed by Rolf Ekeus, thereby justifying the lifting of the sanctions.

Whatever the purpose might have been, the admissions about the secret possession of weapons of mass destruction require the international community to take a fresh look at the past and, even more, at the future. Saddam Husayn's past is generally known, but the new details are appalling, particularly those about biological weapons against which none of the prospective victims — the U.S. troops, Saudi Arabia, or Israel — was sufficiently prepared. If Ekeus' belief that the primary deterrent was Secretary of State James Baker's warning to Tariq 'Aziz during their meeting on the eve of the war, then we should take note of the true weight the image of Israel's nuclear capability bears versus that of the United States. The main reason Saddam did not risk using nonconventional weapons — neither biological nor chemical, and definitely not nuclear — was the U.S. sword hanging over his head; the fear of a devastating Israeli strike — promised by the Shamir government, with a public nod from Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney — was only a secondary consideration.

As for the future, the Iraqis are professing that the recent revelations should satisfy the UN demands and that the sanctions, therefore, should be lifted. Actually, the conclusion should be the opposite: Anyone who managed to operate such a complex maze of deceit, sham, subterfuge, and concealment can never be free of suspicion. The Iraqis — or the UN inspectors, upon receipt of the information — have at most destroyed equipment and tools, but the scientific, technological, and industrial expertise is still stored in the brains that created it, as are the plans of the leaders who led the national effort to achieve mass destruction capability.

As long as Saddam Husayn's regime stands, the United Nations should avoid giving him another opportunity to realize his ambitions, which he may pursue in the future without rash mistakes like his invasion of Kuwait only a few months before he had acquired nuclear weapons instead of several months after. The circumstances of 1991, which were convenient in the sense that the United States was the supreme world power, have worsened since: Russia, which is eager to sell nuclear expertise and in which some important circles advocate closer ties with Iraq to counterbalance the influence of Turkey and the Muslim states in Central Asia, is liable to interpret the lifting of sanctions as license to go on a wild technological and commercial spree. Certain greedy parties in France and Germany are also not to be trusted.

The Clinton administration must adhere to its mission — isolating Saddam's regime and striving to topple it — without falling prey to Saddam's feigned conversion to true virtue. The question marks, in the shape of a nuclear mushroom and a poison skull, are too vivid.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Arrives 27 Aug

TA2808085295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Aug 95 p A8

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brazilian Foreign Minister Dr. Luiz Felipe Lampreia arrived in Israel on an official visit yesterday.

The Brazilian minister will meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, President 'Ezer Weizman, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert today.

Foreign Ministry sources note that Lampreia's visit reflects the improvement in relations between Israel and Brazil, which is the fifth largest nation in the world and first on the list of Israel's trade partners in South America.

During the visit, possibilities for signing bilateral cooperation agreements in various spheres will be raised.

Rabin Meets With South Korean Defense Minister

TA2808090395 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea continues to support the Iranian and Iraqi military procurement, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said during a meeting with the visiting South Korean defense minister last night. The meeting with the first official visitor from South Korea was attended by senior defense establishment officials and defense industry leaders. Our army affairs correspondent Avi Lifshitz reports:

[Lifshitz] While Israel is in the midst of a heated argument over its defense budget, in South Korea — a country which knows nothing of redeployment or army evacuation — the defense budget constitutes about 25 percent of the total budget, a much higher proportion than customary in Israel. South Korea's sizable annual budget includes an approximately $2-billion allocation for defense procurement, and Israeli defense industry leaders hope to divert at least a portion of that sum to Israel. For that purpose, the visiting South Korean minister will be given guided tours of various industrial plants and air force bases.

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Yesterday's meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and South Korean Minister Yi Yang-ho was attended by the Defense Ministry director general and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch chief, in addition to the heads of the defense industries. Their participation was due to the Israeli and South Korean common defense interests vis-a-vis North Korea.

Iran and Iraq continue to receive North Korean aid toward their military procurement, the prime minister said last night. The South Korean minister concurred, adding that despite the desire to achieve a peaceful union between the two Koreas, Seoul still wishes to have a strong army.

It is worth noting that since the establishment of relations between Israel and South Korea, shortly after the Oslo accords, Israeli exports to that country — both defense and commercial — have grown by dozens of percentage points.

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Husayn Kamil on Saddam, 'Udayy, Iraq's Future

JN2508201595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1905 GMT 25 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with General Husayn Kamil Hasan, former minister of industry and minerals and director of the Military Industrialization Organization, in Amman, by Randah Habib; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Habib] Your Excellency the General: Iraqi television broadcast recorded remarks, in which you said that you wished for an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and abused UN Envoy Rolf Ekeus. What is your comment?

[Hasan] The current regime in Iraq is known for its lies and falsification, not only domestically but also internationally. Let us examine how information was revealed to Ekeus in phases, and how every phase ended with a declaration that there was no further information to provide. However, each time Baghdad would come later with more information to reveal about the weapons of mass destruction. This clearly proves that Baghdad was not honest in its statements nor in its international and domestic affairs. They did not reveal that the meeting, to which I was invited, was on withdrawing the units from southern Iraq. The decision was taken even before we entered the meeting. The meeting comprised members of the Revolution Command Council, members of the Regional Command, and myself in my capacity as minister of industry and military industries. Also attending were the information minister, the foreign minister, the public security director, and the intelligence service director. As we entered, the public security director and the intelligence director were excluded so that they would not appear on television. I was also excluded from appearing on television. The meeting took place in the hall of the al-Faris Club. They know well where the al-Faris Club hall is located. It was a club and then turned into a place for their work. While at the meeting, something was written on a piece of paper and handed to Major General 'Abd [not further identified] ordering the withdrawal of a Republican Guard division — I believe it was Baghdad. It was heading from the north to the south. It was ordered to return to its base immediately. The meeting was not intended to discuss a decision. Rather, it dealt with almost general and various topics. The foreign minister (?said) that Ekeus was so and so, accursed, not understanding, and maneuvering. I requested permission to talk. I said something important. I had said that several times before. I said the issue was turned into an issue between Iraq and Ekeus personally because of our media, which describe him as accursed, bad, and so on and so forth. I said this was wrong. Why should the media and the whole issue be turned into an issue between Iraq as a state and Ekeus and personally? Is Ekeus France, the United States, or Britain? Is he a UN Security Council representative and speaks on behalf of the entire Security Council? Or is he a person appointed by the UN Security Council? I said that it was wrong to talk about Ekeus. While talking about Ekeus with such harshness, he might be replaced by somebody else. Such a person would say that he does not know the details of what took place between Ekeus and the Iraqi Government and may wait and ask for time. Therefore, I continued, we should not focus on Ekeus and say such things about him. At the same time, we should continue our international contacts in a manner that enables us to attain our rights and secure an international understanding for our situation. At this point, they began their work on the recording, canceling some words and changing others. For example, they made the recording say that all are our enemies, even Jordan, while in fact I said our enemies, except for Jordan. This is natural and known. The Iraqi regime is known for its lies, deception, and maneuvers. Iraqi officials know that. They know what happened. They know when they heard the recording how the truth was concealed.

[Habib] Your Excellency the General, regarding the Iraqi regime, how do you view the atmosphere of Saddam Husayn's family?

[Hasan] The current atmosphere is troubled and collapsing at the same time. The situation has become difficult for them as a family and for the regime at the same time. You notice that arrests are now taking place. Some of our women relatives, as well as other women, have been arrested. It does this to try to show itself to be fair and claims that this or that person is a relative of ours. So, we notice that his house and property are taken and sometimes even his family, women or men, are arrested. Many incidents are taking place within the family. Soon after we left, some people are looking forward to reaching [power]. In fact, I have no personal differences, contrary to what is being said by the media. This is not true or natural at all. I had very normal relations, but I differed with them over the country's policy that is harming Iraq. Now, they are confused, and each one of them is acting individually. Each person — 'Udayy, Qusayy, the director of intelligence, and Public Security Director Sab'awi — is acting individually. There is a state of loss and disintegration, and not a state of unity at all. I know the defects of persons and the division that prevails, and there is no normal relationship.

[Habib] Did the shooting of Watban take place before you left Iraq?

[Hasan] It occurred as soon as I entered Amman.

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[Habib] Does this mean that the incident had nothing to do with your decision to leave Iraq?

[Hasan] No. I arrived in Amman around 0400, and the incident took place at 0400 on 8 August. I was told of the incident only after I arrived in Amman.

[Habib] Who carried out the shooting?

[Hasan] Of course, 'Udayy, it is he who shot Watban, his nephew, his cousin, Watban's friend, and six women. I was told that some of the women died.

[Habib] Watban, Saddam Husayn's brother, was assaulted by Saddam's son. Saddam's other brother in Geneva does not want to return to Baghdad. Would you confirm that Barzan does not want to return to Baghdad?

[Hasan] It is not that Barzan does not want to return now. There is an old problem between Barzan and 'Udayy and a problem between Barzan and the regime. Barzan wants a higher position and responsibility, but the regime does not want to give him such a responsibility for many reasons. This is mainly because Barzan wants to interfere in the authority. There is nothing more to it. Barzan is known for his criminality, his concern about his own interests, and his attack on any person who has money if he wants to get this money. These stories are known to all Iraqis. Barzan wants a good post, but the regime does not want to give him such a post because it fears that he might exceed his limits and take power. What happened now is only a pretext, because Barzan cares only about his own interests, so he refused to return, and this is not the first time he has done this. He has done this many times and stayed in Geneva.

[Habib] Has your mother-in-law, Sajidah, come to Jordan?

[Hasan] No, this is not true.

[Habib] So, it is not true. Okay, but there are rumors that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn did not allow her to leave Iraq, can you confirm this?

[Hasan] I haven't heard anything about this.

[Habib] With what faction of the Iraqi opposition are you cooperating?

[Hasan] There had been no prior coordination with any of the opposition factions. Also, we are currently not allied with any opposition faction. We deal with everybody in a clear manner and depend on consistent action because our chief concern is to change the regime and to see Iraq become a safe country which lives in peace and enjoys full freedom and the use of its resources which are now not in the hands of the Iraqi people.

[Habib] On what do you base your talk about a coup in Iraq? With whom will you cooperate inside Iraq to make this coup succeed?

[Hasan] Do you think that someone who wants to stage a coup and change the regime will announce on the radio that he will cooperate with so and so of the Army commanders? I cannot answer this question.

[Habib] But in your view, do you have enough support in Iraq?

[Hasan] Yes, we have support and we are confident that there is great support from the Army units, the Republican Guards, the people, and state officials.

[Habib] You talk about a political program for Iraq's future. Can you give us the dimensions of this program?

[Hasan] The first point in our political program, which we want to implement in the future, God willing, is that Iraq must be a stable and safe country that is free from wars and trouble which was caused by the regime. Anyone can see that Iraq has been fighting wars for 15 years. At the same time, we want Iraq to enjoy its natural resources and to cooperate and interact with the Arab region in an active and serious manner and serve its own interests and the interests of the Arab region. We also want Iraq to cooperate with the other neighborly non-Arab countries of the region, in a satisfactory manner that ensures Iraq's interests and the rights and interests of the neighborly countries. We also want political freedoms in Iraq and a free press, political parties, political pluralism, and parliament. We call for all these things in light of the situation which is now very difficult in Iraq. There is no freedom and there is nothing. The security agencies now speak on behalf of the citizens. Sometimes, citizens are jailed — and this is a law in the country — the security agencies arrest people according to the mood of these agencies and the instructions they receive.

[Habib] Since your departure from Iraq, many rumors have been circulated on the departure of your wife, Mrs. Raghad, the Iraqi president's daughter, and her sister Rana — that they left Iraq against their will. Can you confirm that they are in Jordan with their full consent?

[Hasan] There is no question about this. How can a person force his wife to leave for another country without her knowledge? At the same time, I said that I talked with them 10 days before our departure and told them in detail about my views, about what is happening inside the country, and about my suffering as a result of this, as well as about my decision to

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leave Iraq. Everybody was aware of this. We left on the afternoon of 7 August and arrived in Jordan on 8 August. Everybody was there, and a large number of bodyguards were with us. After our arrival in Amman, I sent the bodyguards back home and they saw that our wives and children were with us. So, there is no question about this at all. All these are rumors circulated by the regime, which spreads new things every day, thinking that the Iraqi people will believe what it says and that it is capable of peddling something to the international community. However, all these attempts are baseless and desperate.

[Habib] You said that you sent the bodyguards back to Iraq. Were they arrested?

[Hasan] According to my information, they were kept for a few days for interrogation. They knew nothing.

[Habib] How many were they?

[Hasan] I believe they were approximately... [pauses] I do not know, but they were a large number. I do not want to give an inaccurate figure. A large number of them crossed the border with their vehicles, and some of them did not even have passports.

[Habib] You spoke yesterday in a press interview about your desire to visit Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Have you set a date for the visit?

[Hasan] No, we hope that all the neighborly Arab countries will be our field of action. Yes, we have the desire, but so far we have not decided to visit Saudi Arabia or Kuwait.

Reaction to King's Speech on Iraq Reported

Husayn Kamil Offers Praises

JN2608122795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Aug 95

[Cable from General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid to King Husayn; date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God said: Allah only wishes to remove all abomination from you, ye members of the [Prophet's] family, and to make you pure and spotless. [Koranic verse]

His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, may God support you and grant you success.

Your Majesty's comprehensive pan-Arab speech had a profound effect on our hearts because of the sincere and noble Arab sentiments it contained. No wonder, these sentiments are expressed by the noble Hashemite, scion of the Prophet and heir to the Great Arab Revolt, with all your majesty's well-known true affiliation and your zeal for the greatness of the Arab nation.

Sir, we are under the protection of our great uncle, and the uncle of all free Arabs; the compassionate father of all the heroes of the Arab nation who does not fear anyone in telling the truth, whose head has never bowed except in prayer to and out of fear of Almighty God, and who aspires to realize the interests of the Arab nation from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf.

Your Majesty, your noble stand alongside Iraq in weal and woe and for a long time is recognized by the Iraqis. Your sponsoring us and your support will be added to the noble and countless deeds of the Hashemites throughout history.

May God grant you success, prolong your life, realize your hopes in serving your Arab nation, and perpetuate your greatness. May God be our supporter and helper.

[Signed] General Husayn Kamil Hasan

Iraqi TV Airing of Speech 'Big Puzzle'

JN2708103495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Aug 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Natasha Bukhari "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Iraqi government's decision to broadcast in full His Majesty King Husayn's address to the nation Wednesday [23 August] caught Jordanians and the Iraqi community living in Jordan by surprise over the weekend. Officials, parliamentarians and observers were still groping for answers yesterday as to why the speech, in which His Majesty King Husayn strongly criticised the Iraqi leadership, was shown by Iraq's official television network.

According to the optimists among them, the move showed the Iraqi regime is willing to accept criticism of its practices and at the same time reassuring the Iraqi people that relations with Jordan were still strong, to the extent that the King's speech could be broadcast on Iraqi TV without any problem.

"It would have been very difficult for the Iraqi leaders already to hear the King, who enjoys both the popularity and credibility among the Iraqi people, express great disappointment with them," a Jordanian official said. "How they decided to let all Iraqis know what His Majesty had to say about their leadership, I do not know," added the official, who requested anonymity.

This view was shared not only by other Jordanians, but also by Iraqis living in Jordan.

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"The sky is the limit in trying to explain what happened," an Iraqi citizen living in Amman told the JORDAN TIMES. "It could be that Saddam is preparing the ground for himself to defect here," she said in amazement.

But short of accepting the far-fetched "theory" on a possible asylum by the Iraqi president in Jordan, observers and analysts cited a number of factors that could have been behind the Iraqi decision to rebroadcast the speech on a TV channel run by none other than the president's eldest son, 'Udayy.

There was a near consensus by analysts and politicians interviewed by the JORDAN TIMES on the idea that the decision to broadcast the speech was a tactic by President Saddam to show confidence and send out a message both to his people and to the international community, which has not concealed its eagerness to see him ousted, that he has nothing to fear, despite stepped up pressure from various parties against his regime.

"It is a smart move that shows some confidence," said one senior official, adding that it also "gives the impression that the Iraqi leadership has no reason to feel threatened, especially that it was clear in the King's speech that Jordan will not take any action to change the status quo of relations with Baghdad on the economic and human levels."

"Regarding the talk that Jordan might close its borders with Iraq or block food and medicine supplies to its people, this is something that has never crossed our minds..." the King had said in his speech.

The Iraqi regime has received a blow after the defection to Jordan of Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamil, and their wives, Raghad and Rana, both daughters of President Saddam. Gen. Hasan not only disparaged the Iraqi regime, but also called for its overthrow altogether.

But analysts say that by highlighting his faith in his people's "clever reading" of the King's speech, in which the Monarch paid tribute to Gen. Hasan as a man "who refuses to enjoy what the majority of the Iraqi people are deprived of, seeking to save his country and protect its unity and right to life," President Saddam might have wanted to expose Gen. Hasan's "betrayal" to the Iraqi people. Gen. Hasan is believed to have little credibility among the majority of Iraqis who see him as a cornerstone of the regime they are growing so intolerant of.

"It is a tactic Saddam used to make this man (Gen. Hasan) look as a traitor who sold out on his country," said another Iraqi living in Jordan.

In explaining its reason for showing the speech the Iraqi TV accompanied it by a short introduction that said: "In view of our faith in our people and the knowledge that (Iraqis) are capable of interpretation and clever reading, and because of what (the people) know about the leadership's clear policy in all spheres, we present to the Iraqis a recording of the full text of king Husayn's speech.

Deputy Tujan Faysal said that, apart from showing confidence (by airing the speech), the Iraqi regime wanted to give the impression that "hailing someone like Gen. Husayn Kamil was inappropriate and would be received as such by Iraqis."

Others were of the opinion that rebroadcasting the speech would serve Iraq's interest in that it would give the impression that the Iraqi leadership was moving towards democracy, thus hoping to make a positive impact on the issue of lifting the U.N. sanctions, imposed against Baghdad since it invaded Kuwait in 1990, especially with the King saying that the sanctions will not be lifted unless the Iraqi leadership complied fully with all U.N. resolutions.

For the sanctions to be lifted, the U.N. Security Council demands that Iraq comply with all ceasefire terms that along with eliminating the country's mass destruction weapons, also include humanitarian issues like ensuring human rights, democracy...

"Maybe Saddam thinks that the move would help him look democratic at a time when he is being criticised for his lack of democracy and for dictatorship," a government official said.

Other analysts have interpreted the move in a much more sceptical manner saying that President Saddam might be laying the groundwork for any contemplated action against Jordan in retaliation for its position.

"The (Iraqi) leadership would have given legitimacy for any possible action against Jordan by carrying the speech that might be viewed as one directed against Saddam," said a parliamentarian.

On the other hand, some Iraqis said that move simply boiled down to what they described as "a desperate move by a falling-out regime that has run out of options."

"Keeping in mind that Saddam does not have much to play on, I believe that this is just another little media game aimed at discrediting Gen. Hasan who has shaken an already disintegrating system," said one Iraqi.

Some politicians, however, believe that since the King has made no direct reference to President Saddam

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himself, the speech would be perceived as a reiteration of Jordan's support for Iraq, and that carrying it denotes a sign of goodwill on part of the Iraqi leadership and its appreciation of the Jordanian concern for the well-being of the country.

"It reflects close relations with Iraq and proves that they do not want to escalate tension but rather keep a low profile," said one governmental source, adding that it also shows that "Iraqis accept our position."

But as the official put it: "The leadership in Iraq is so unpredictable and it is hard to know what they're thinking. In any case the Iraqi regime might have thought that there was no way to prevent Iraqis from hearing the speech and decided to take the credit for showing it themselves."

Iraqis' 'Satisfaction' With Address Noted

JN2708101295 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 27 Aug 95 p 17

[Report by Nayif al-Ma'ani in Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Text] King Husayn's address to the nation on Wednesday [23 August] was welcomed by Iraqi intellectuals and citizens in general. The address was broadcast several times by Iraqi Television. Iraqi citizens interviewed by AL-ASWAQ one day after the speech said that King Husayn had dotted the i's and that the address expressed the long-standing suffering of the Iraqi people, which have blood and brotherhood ties with Jordan.

One elderly Iraqi said: When King Husayn started speaking, I cried and remembered King Faysal I, King Ghazi, and King Faysal II, may God's mercy be upon them.

There are three issues at the center of the Iraqi people's interests: King Husayn's speech, General Husayn Kamil Hasan, and soaring prices. Whenever people meet, they talk about these issues.

The cheapest commodity in Iraq is gasoline. I saw a driver filling his American-made car with 100 liters of gasoline for only 50 Iraqi dinars, equivalent to 37 Jordanian fils.

Iraqi Oil Minister Engineer General 'Amir Rashid told an AL-ASWAQ correspondent that Iraq's oil losses since the Gulf war totalled $85 billion, with an average of $50 million per day.

On his part, Iraqi health minister told AL-ASWAQ: The health situation in Baghdad has deteriorated seriously. The aid we receive barely covers eight percent of what is required.

AL-ASWAQ toured Baghdad. Our colleague Nasir Ayyub was permitted to take photographs without being accompanied by a someone from the Information Ministry. A senior official said: AL-ASWAQ is a respectable newspaper that distances itself from sensationalism. It enjoys credibility, has a pan-Arab orientation, and criticizes others objectively and does not slander anyone.

We thought that during the press delegation's return to Jordan we would face abnormal measures on the borders, but the situation was good and things were proceeding normally. However, there was congestion on our borders with long lines of cars coming from Jordan. Nevertheless, border employees in all posts provided every assistance. Thus we thank them for the facilities they extend to arrivals in Jordan.

'Politicians,' Others Offer Analysis

JN2608112195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Aug 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Nirmin Murad "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn's address to the nation on Wednesday [23 August] did signal a shift in Jordanian policy towards Iraq, but it was not the "total shift" under which Jordan was expected to take an active part in efforts to topple the Iraqi regime, Jordanian politicians and analysts say.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, in a statement he made to German television on Thursday, stressed that Jordan would continue to maintain official contacts with Iraq and remain an open window for Iraq and the Iraqi people.

"We have been reminded by the recent defections to Jordan of a senior Iraqi official of the pivotal role of Jordan in the region; and when I say we have been reminded, I think that the world has been reminded of the fact that Jordan is an open window on Iraq and on the Iraqi people," the Crown Prince said.

"As far as official relations are concerned, obviously these are maintained," he added. "Despite the difficulties and the respective embarrassment, we noticed that His Majesty's statement of yesterday was relayed in full by the Iraqi media."

The Crown Prince's statement, coupled with official government assurances that Jordan would not pursue active measures against the Iraqi regime, strongly indicate that a final break between Jordan and Iraq has not happened, as many Western and Arab politicians and observers actually believe.

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"Our relationship with Iraq has not changed," an official government source told the JORDAN TIMES yesterday in commenting on the King's speech. "But that does not mean that we are not hoping for an improvement in the situation in Iraq," the source said. "Jordan will not close any door in pursuit of its major policy objective, that of alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people through lifting the sanctions regime."

"While it is true that the King's speech did not at any time call for a change in our relationship with Iraq, whether it be on the economic or the human level," the source said, "it is also true that His Majesty stressed his concern for the Iraqi people without calling for the ouster of President Saddam."

In his speech, which he made on Jordan Television, the King expressed his deep disappointment with the Iraqi regime's systematic resistance to any advice or action that would pave the way for its rehabilitation, and he warned that the world was not going to lift the five-year old embargo against Baghdad any time soon.

But despite this disappointment, the King stressed that Jordan will not close its borders to Iraq or block food and medicine supplies to the Iraqi people.

"This in no way amounts to a call for the toppling of the Iraqi regime," the government source said.

Observers agree that the King's speech did not indicate a "practical shift" in the Kingdom's handling of its day-to-day relations with Iraq even though it contained what some of them described as "until now suppressed criticism of the Iraqi regime."

Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, a former minister of information and of state, says that while there was "a shift" in Jordan's policy vis-a- vis Iraq, "I do not think it will be translated into specific steps to be taken regarding daily relations between Iraq and Jordan."

"This rather unique position is further demonstrated by statement coming from both governments supporting the preservation of the status quo between the two countries," Mr. 'Izz-al-Din maintains.

Other politicians and analysts interviewed by the JORDAN TIMES say that while the King has sought to clarify the reason behind Jordan's growing disappointment with the Iraqi regime, His Majesty's criticism was not new.

"There is no decisive shift especially if one recalls that the King's comments about Iraq over the past few years have not exactly been flattering to the Iraqi regime," a former senior official says. "What is new this time is the context and circumstances in which the King's disappointment and criticism have been expressed."

The former official was pointing to several public statements made by the King since the Gulf war ceasefire of 1991, including a recent open call for change he made in an interview with the Israeli newspaper Yediot Ahranot.

In the U.S. in 1992 the King, after meeting with Saudi ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, said that if he felt that his presence was becoming a burden to his people he would leave in what was interpreted to be a direct reference to President Saddam.

"With this in mind, one cannot say that the speech is a sudden shift," the former official says.

But what might be a shift, Jordanian politicians and analysts generally agree, is that the King, by making the speech now, appeared to be preparing the Jordanian people for a possible change of policy if the situation requires it in the future..

"This is perhaps one of the main objectives of the speech," a parliamentarian maintains. "besides, the King also wanted to answer sceptics on his decision to grant asylum, to (Lt. Gen Husayn) Kamil and explain the thinking that had guided his decision."

The King, those who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES point out, was trying to impress upon Jordanians that a new Middle East within a new world reality was emerging; and based on this, the Arabs, including the Iraqis, needed to understand more about the requirements of the new era.

In his speech, the King said that he wished for the Arab Nation "to wake up to the reality of a world that has changed to the extent that it witnessed the rise of a historical movement that brought to surface contradictions of all sorts at the same time."

"The King was giving the Jordanian people a demonstration of the new regional dynamics," a former minister says. "The King was basically saying that Jordan's actions today have to be assessed by today's yardsticks."

Western analysts have been describing what they see as the King's new shift in policy as the "missing element needed for a strategy to remove Iraqi President Saddam Husayn from power."

Contending that with Jordan's latest shift in attitude "the cards are all there to topple the regime in Baghdad," a Western diplomat was quoted by Reuters in Amman as saying "now it is just a question of progressing with caution and sensitivity to the local sentiment of all these countries concerned."

But despite the West's excitement over the Iraqi defections and the King's speech further distancing himself

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from the Iraqi regime, Jordanian politicians say that Jordan has not yet received any iron-clad guarantee that would convince Jordan to make a final break with the Iraqi regime.

A Middle East shuttle by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau, which included Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and two trips to Jordan, apparently failed to bring out the success story that Washington may have expected, politicians believe.

"One gets the feeling that the King is still waiting for something to happen, which is why he has left his options open," one former official maintains.

He and other politicians in fact point out that despite the new elements that the King introduced in his speech, if he wanted to show the world that he intended to handle Iraq differently from before, there was a number of measures he could have taken to make that change evident.

Politicians say that Jordan has at least three cards in its hand that it could use to weaken the Iraqi regime and tighten the noose around it.

One of these cards is to physically close the borders between Jordan and Iraq and cut the flow of food and medicine to the Iraqi people, "which the King said he will not do," the former official who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES says.

The second possibility would be to allow the Iraqi defectors to use Jordanian soil as a launching pad for much more damaging activity than media statements calling for the toppling of the Iraqi regime or discrediting it, "something which until now the King has not allowed," the former official adds.

He and others point out that while the former Iraqi defence minister has been allowed to launch a media campaign out of Amman "it doesn't appear as if he has the go-ahead, from the King, to pose a physical threat to the Iraqi regime out of Jordan."

The third tactic is to exert moral pressure on the Iraqi regime to mend its ways and face up to its responsibilities to its own people and the Arab World at large, "which is what the king has done in his speech," says the former official. "But this tactic has limited power to influence the stability of the Iraqi regime."

"In sum, the King is trying to prepare the people for change and for any eventuality that materialises as a result," the former official maintains. "he is not, however, foreclosing any option or closing any door," the former official concludes.

Newspaper Editorials Praise Speech

JN2408155495

[FBIS Editorial Report] The three Jordanian Arabic dailies on 24 August highlight King Husayn's televised address of the previous evening in which he discussed recent developments concerning Iraq. In addition to their editorials, AL-RA'Y, AL-DUSTUR, and AL-ASWAQ publish the full text of the king's speech.

In a 500-word page 1 editorial headlined "Husayn's Speech: The Noblest Jordanian Document," AL-RA'Y says, "The king's speech yesterday came at a time when much is being said about Iraq, which has been and will remain a fraternal country. We continue to feel the pains of its noble, genuine people and hold special feelings for them; feelings that have always been characterized with genuine brotherhood. Husayn yesterday underlined what we have been saying time and again, that the features of the Jordanian decisions are determined by a sense of fraternal duty toward the people in Iraq, and that these decisions are not subject to the whims or pressures of any party. These decisions do not aim to add new burdens on the Iraqi people, such as the closure of our borders at a time when we know that we are their lung and they are our depth and support."

AL-RA'Y adds: "The leader's speech also came to refute, once again and with all clarity and sincerity, the insinuations about any Hashemite ambitions in Iraq. He stressed that we have no ambitions or aspirations except to see soon Iraq emerge from its total darkness and long night of suffering to see the dawn of its freedom, and preserve its national unity and exercise its sovereignty over all of its territory under a canopy of freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights."

The paper concludes by saying: "Husayn's speech yesterday was one of the noblest documents of Jordan — the state and the mission — with all its pan-Arab affiliation and noble humanitarian aspirations."

AL-DUSTUR, in its approximately 400-word page-one editorial "The Final Say for the Nation's Awakening," describes the speech as a conclusive answer to all the questions posed by the recent Iraqi developments, especially after the defection of General Husayn Kamil Hasan to Jordan. The paper says: "Iraq is, above all, the country which we love and the people whose nobility and magnanimity we all know about. It is also the cradle of civilizations and the country which we supported for eight long years, without asking for any favors in return, and without any ambitions or aspirations except to see it preserve its national unity and territorial integrity."

The paper also underlines the king's statement that he has no ambitions or aspirations in Iraq, but wishes to

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see it choosing its own path and living its experience without any foreign threats, and to see it preserving its national fabric.

The paper concludes by saying that King Husayn's speech to the nation yesterday was a lesson in frankness and openness and, "above all, a very sincere and wishful call for Iraq to resume its Arab and humanitarian role after the embargo imposed against its people is lifted, and after its citizens regain their basic rights to freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights, in a way similar to the Jordanian model, which enjoys the world's appreciation and respect."

AL-ASWAQ, on page 19 in its approximately 400-word editorial "The Hashemites' Responsibility in Diagnosing the Present and Foreseeing the Future," says, "Any fair observer of the Jordanian positions will see that the concern for Iraq and its surroundings which King Husayn displayed in his pan-Arab speech is in harmony with the Hashemites' historic concern for Iraq as a dear part of the nation, for whose sake the Great Arab Revolt was launched."

The paper concludes: "By expressing the hope that the suffering of the Iraqi people will soon be alleviated and that the dangers which threaten its national unity will be removed, and by wishing that Iraq will achieve freedom, democracy, and balanced pluralism among all its groups, the king was in fact speaking on behalf of millions of citizens of the nation and Iraq and forecasting the new dawn that awaits the nation on the threshold of the new century."

Ministry 'Dissatisfied' With Iraqi Envoy's 'Movements'

JN2808084895 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 30 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Developments following General Husayn Kamil's defection to Amman have reflected on the Iraqi Embassy in Amman.

In a not-surprising development, the Iraqi ambassador's movements in Amman were part of the discussions by Jordanian political circles, which focused on the Iraqi crisis over the past few days.

Jordanian party members and officials spoke about the provocative tone used by Iraqi Ambassador Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis during his meetings with former Jordanian and other officials who have, until recently, been close to Iraq.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry is said to be dissatisfied with al-Wayyis' recent movements. The ministry closely monitors the activities of ambassadors and embassies in the kingdom, and the extent of their abidance by diplomatic norms.

Arab diplomatic circles in Amman believe that as a result of al-Wayyis' violation of "etiquette," the Jordanian Foreign Ministry will ask Baghdad to reduce the number of its diplomats, which is more than necessary. There are over 100 Iraqi diplomats in Amman, while there are not more than seven Jordanian diplomats in Baghdad.

Islamists Urge Halt to Break in Ties With Iraq

NC2608131495 Paris AFP in English 1216 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 26 (AFP) — Moslem fundamentalists on Saturday [26 August] urged Jordanians to resist a break in ties with Iraq, saying ending links with Baghdad was against the people's interests.

In a statement sent to AFP, the opposition Islamic Action Front blamed the government for "the break with Iraq" and accused it of bringing up Iraqi plans to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to give the United States an excuse to continue sanctions on Baghdad.

The statement did not mention Jordan's King Husayn, who in an address to the nation on Wednesday said he had been shocked to learn of the invasion plans from former Iraqi industry minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan after he defected on August 8.

The front said: "All active forces in the country must force the government to put a stop to this policy of rupture, which goes against the wishes and the interests of the Jordanian people."

It urged the people to have nothing to do with US plans or any intervention in the internal affairs of an Arab country, particularly any attempt at a coup.

In the wake of King Husayn's fierce attack on Baghdad on Wednesday, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa travelled to Amman on Saturday bearing a message for the monarch from President Husni Mubarak on the situation in Iraq.

"We believe that the primary responsibility for the disastrous situation and the suffering of the Iraqi people lies without doubt with the Iraqi regime," he told reporters.

He said the "regime must do everything in its power to end the misery of its people," adding Egypt was "closely following the issue and monitoring it."

Egyptian officials said his message dealt with the aftermath of the defection of Hasan, his brother and

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their wives, both daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, on August 8.

Mubarak has offered Saddam political asylum if it helps avoid bloodshed in Iraq, which has been hit by a crippling UN oil and trade embargo imposed when Baghdad invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

He said he had made the offer to King Husayn when they met, but the Jordanian leader had told him Saddam was not a man to abandon power.

Paper Reports King's Meeting With Peres, Beilin

JN2808083195 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 28 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Nabil Ghayshan]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn will leave the homeland tomorrow on a visit to the Sultanate of Oman where he will meet with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

Talks between the two leaders will deal with developments in the region and ways of developing bilateral relations.

His Majesty King Husayn will be accompanied by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

Meanwhile, news agencies reported that King Husayn met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Economy Minister Yosi Beilin in al-'Aqabah last night. The meeting was held to honor British Lord Mishkon [name as transliterated] who is currently visiting Jordan, and who is known for his support for Middle East peace.

Crown Prince Hasan is due to meet with Peres in Wadi al-'Arabah today to discuss issues related to bilateral agreements, especially the transportation agreement and the setting up of a joint airport between al-'Aqabah and Elat. The talks will also deal with details of a joint plan to develop al-'Aqabah and Elat ports.

Israeli Minister of Transportation Yisra'el Qeysar will participate in the meeting.

'Post-Saddam Husayn Middle East' Discussed

TA2808085095 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Aug 95 p 5

[Report by Smadar Peri and Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] King Husayn and Foreign Minister Peres yesterday held a private meeting in al-'Aqabah. The talk centered on the post-Saddam Husayn Middle East.

The prevailing assessment among Jordanian policymakers is that the Iraqi leader will fall from office within three to four months. When this happens, he will apparently be replaced by General Husayn Kamil, who received political asylum in Jordan two weeks ago. It is believed that Gen. Kamil will announce "the turning of a new page" in relations with the West, including a willingness to get involved in the peace process with Israel. [passage omitted]

Egypt's 'Amr Musa Talks in Amman Reported

JN2608164595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Aug 95

[Report by Khalil al-Qaryuti and Muhammad al-'Anaswah; italicized passages are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir today met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. During the meeting, his excellency the prime minister stressed that Jordanian and Egyptian viewpoints are close and that the two countries have a unified position on the peace process. He also stressed the need to expand coordination and exchange views between the two countries on all levels. He underlined the need to work to free trade between them and strengthen economic ties, avoiding the policy of protocols which set the volume of trade at levels that do not correspond to the level of the aspirations which the two countries seek to achieve.

They also discussed the plan to establish the Middle East and North Africa regional bank, in terms of its headquarters, role, and coordination between the two countries in this regard. They also discussed the positive developments on the Palestinian-Israeli track and agreed to provide all possible support to ensure the success of the talks between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority.

For his part, 'Amr Musa stressed that the two countries have identical political positions and that coordination between them is continuing. He also stressed that his country is serious about strengthening and developing this coordination in all fields and on all levels.

The conferees also discussed Jordanian preparations to ensure the success of the Amman economic conference, especially since Egypt will play a significant role in its activities. Furthermore, Egypt and the Egyptian private sector will actively participate in this conference.

Following the meeting, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir spoke to reporters on the topics discussed during the meeting. He said:

[Bin-Shakir] *Our meeting focused on the economic conference which is scheduled to be held, God willing, in October. We also discussed coordination between the*

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sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt and Jordan and their joint action to ensure the success of this conference. We hope that these consultations will, God willing, continue until we arrive at specific and unified positions in this conference.

[Unidentified correspondent] *Mr. Prime Minister: Regarding the economic conference, we see that Arab representation in this conference is weak and that the regional states have not shown as much enthusiasm about it as the states from outside the region. Does your excellency expect this conference to reach any results that would benefit the regional states?*

[Bin-Shakir] *I wish to stress that the Arab presence will not be small, but rather, it will be a significant presence. We will work together as Arabs to ensure the success of this conference. Also, do not forget that this conference will be held in an Arab country, and we will work, together with the brothers in Egypt, to ensure the success of this conference and to present the true Arab image in it.*

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa also made statements to journalists in which he said:

[Musa] *Of course, in our consultation with the brothers here in Jordan, we will discuss all the hot and the not-so- hot issues. As the prime minister has just said, we discussed the Amman economic conference, regional cooperation, and the peace process and its progress on all tracks. We will soon continue discussions of the other issues which we did not have the time to discuss before. Earlier today, I met with [Jordanian Foreign Minister] 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and discussed other issues. We will then brief his majesty the king on the outcome of all these discussions.*

The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti; Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, minister of industry and trade and head of the higher committee charged with preparations for the Amman economic conference; the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo; and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

Jordanian and Egyptian teams, headed by Foreign Ministers 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and 'Amr Musa, held a meeting at the Guest palace today in which they discussed ties between the two countries and the means to develop and strengthen these ties. They also discussed current Arab and international topics and the position of the two countries toward them. They discussed the regional peace process developments, the Amman economic summit, the situation in Iraq in light of recent developments, the Hebron issue, the Bosnia-Herzegovina question, and coordination between the two countries on these issues.

'Amr Musa arrived in Amman this morning on a brief visit during which he will convey to His Majesty King Husayn a message from his brother His Excellency President Husni Mubarak and meet with senior Jordanian officials. Upon arrival, 'Amr Musa made statements to journalists in which he said:

[Musa] *It is normal for officials in Egypt and Jordan to exchange visits to hold dialogue and to discuss all the issues that concern us such as the peace process developments, conditions in the region, bilateral cooperation, and coordination on future activities, including the Amman conference and the regional action in general. There are many topics which I will discuss with brother 'Abd-al-Karim. There is also a message which I will convey from President Mubarak to his majesty. I think that coordination between us has reached an advanced stage, and we should support it further. I feel comfortable talking to my brother 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and listening to his assessment of things. Therefore, the working relationship between us is very good.*

Asked about the situation in Iraq, 'Amr Musa said:

[Musa] *We all cannot accept that the sanctions will remain in force indefinitely; this is out of question. The implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions must, as Ekeus said, lead to alleviating this situation. The situation in Iraq is, unquestionably, a sad one. We all feel the suffering of the Iraqi people and are pained by it. Unquestionably, the Iraqi regime is primarily responsible for this, and it must do what it must to rid the Iraqi people of the regrettable situation in which they live. This is an issue which we are all monitoring and following and we hope developments will allow Iraq to return to normal conditions. This, however, has many conditions, and, certainly, the current Iraqi regime has, due to its actions, raised many questions on the extent of its participation in the Arab march in accordance with the current circumstances.*

Upon arriving in Amman this morning, 'Amr Musa was received at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, the heads of departments at the Foreign Ministry, the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo, and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

'Amr Musa is accompanied by a delegation comprising Badr Hammam, assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs; Ra'uf Sa'd, assistant foreign minister for international economic relations; and Nabil Fahmi, a political adviser to the Egyptian foreign minister.

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[Reporting on 'Amr Musa's arrival and statements to journalists, Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic at 0930 GMT on 26 August adds the following:

"Regarding the Egyptian position on recent developments in Iraq, Musa said: President Mubarak has clarified the Egyptian position in this regard, and I have nothing to add.

"Asked about the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, Musa said: There is a slow movement on these two tracks. I hope there will be progress because any time that is wasted without restoring Arab lands or returning things back to normal will be a great loss to us. We fully understand the Syrian and Lebanese positions. Our mission is to support the Arab negotiator to help regain the territory and arrive at a solution on the basis of the land-for-peace formula."

PETRA-JNA also reports Musa's statements on the sanctions imposed on Iraq adding:

"I am talking about the sanctions imposed on Iraq. Regarding the regime and getting rid of that regime, President Mubarak has said that this matter is left to the Iraqi people."

The PETRA-JNA report further adds:

"Asked about Egypt's position on the murder of Egyptian POW's during the 1967 [as received] war, Musa said: We have followed the statements made by certain Israeli officers, who confessed that they committed such crimes, which are in violation of the Geneva convention on POW's. Such crimes cannot be tolerated. We asked the Israeli Government to take necessary measures within the context of the Geneva convention. We are following this issue and we are keen on seeing those who committed such crimes punished."]

Al-Rawabidah Reaffirms Government Stand on Jerusalem

JN2508115295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Aug 95 , p 2

[Report by Sa'ida al-Kilani; "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan on Wednesday [23 August] reaffirmed its position that Jerusalem should be the capital of a Palestinian state and pledged to continue efforts to make this objective achievable.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah said Jordan's position had not changed concerning Jerusalem as an occupied Arab land since 1967 and that the Holy City's status as the capital of the Palestinian state will be decided by the Palestinians themselves.

The minister was replying to a question raised by Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Hamzah Mansur during Wednesday's Lower House of Parliament session on a statement made by Jordan's former ambassador to the United Nations, 'Adnan Abu 'Udah, that Jerusalem will be divided into three parts: Arab, Jewish and a third part that includes the holy places.

"I found that statement as a deviation from Jordan's declared position," Mr. Mansur asserted. "At a time that the Zionist leadership does not hide its ambitions and reiterates that Jerusalem is its 'eternal and unified' capital, there has not been any protest or a threat to halt the peace talks. It is worrying."

In the government's written reply to the question, Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti said that Jordan believes that the Palestinians should have their capital in the eastern part of Jerusalem. He added that the holy places "will not belong to any party but will be for us all... all of those who believe in the one God."

Mr. Mansur said that the government's response was in itself contradictory and does not fall in line with the Kingdom's declared position since Israel occupied Arab East Jerusalem in 1967.

"It said that the Palestinian capital will be in the eastern part and did not say in East Jerusalem. It means that there is an endorsement of the seizure of some parts of occupied East Jerusalem" he said. "Does that correspond with the U.N. resolutions, and does it fall in line with the Jordanian responsibility towards the holy places which were part of Jordanian territory until Jerusalem was occupied?"

Mr. al-Rawabidah said that Jordan had not changed its position. 'Are going to argue on Iin' and 'the' ...? [sentence as published] Our stand is not contradictory, but political action is very broad. In one part, there are the aspirations, and in the other there are the realities and capabilities." he said.

"It is not up to Jordan to suspend negotiations," he said. "it was not a Jordanian decision to postpone negotiations on Jerusalem until the final phase. We in Jordan will be on the Palestinians' side until they secure their rights and establish their state—the capital of which will be Jerusalem."

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U.S. Embassy Bid 'To Conceal' Pelletreau Visit Noted

JN2608065895 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 26 Aug-1 Sep 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Why Has the U.S. Embassy Tried To Conceal Pelletreau's Visit?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although the U.S. Embassy in Amman tried to conceal the visit to Amman by Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state, it was exposed by the U.S. media, which announced the visit.

Foreign news agency correspondents who became aware of the visit, contacted the U.S. Embassy in Amman, which refused to confirm or deny the visit. However, the Embassy, which could not procrastinate any longer in the face of media pressure, announced that the assistant secretary of state came to Amman to discuss U.S. participation in the economic summit and the steps taken by Jordan to render this summit a success.

It appears from statements made by its officials that the U.S. Embassy tried to conceal the secret reason for Pelletreau' visit when the visit was exposed and when it became clear that the reason for the visit and its major task was to convince Jordan to stop economic dealing with Iraq.

SHIHAN learned that Pelletreau met with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir in al-'Aqabah on 18 August in the presence of Finance Minister Basil Jardanah, Planning Minister Mrs. Rima Khalaf, and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

Informed government sources told SHIHAN that, in his second visit to Amman, Pelletreau informed the Jordanian officials that the United States believes that Iraqi defector Husayn Kamil is only a carrier of information and that Kamil's method of action is not in harmony with the U.S. policy.

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Speaker Birri Asks U.S. To Stop Israeli Attacks

NC2608182195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has said the budget policy must be reviewed instead of diverting public opinion with spending programs. He believes that there is no homeland without an army and that the Army protects the borders but does not oppress the people. Whoever does not want the Army wants a divided Lebanon.

Speaker Birri denied there was any decision to cut the number of soldiers in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon or reduce their role or area of deployment until Resolution 425 is implemented and Israel fully withdraws from Lebanese territory. He asked the United States in particular to stop the persistent Israeli aggression on Lebanon. He warned that neither Beirut nor any other Arab capital will be a city of the future so long as Israel is determined to seize the future and we pay no heed to building economic, social, military, and defense sectors.

Speaker Birri was addressing a cornerstone-laying ceremony for the town hall in Tibnin. Here is some of what he said:

[Begin Birri recording] Therefore, [applause] today we will not ask the Security Council to prove its relevance with international resolutions, because we would be fooling ourselves. We ask the United States to stop the continuing Israeli aggression and occupation of our country. We ask it to put an end to Israel's threats to international and national peace. By escalating the mechanism of aggression and continuing its occupation of parts of Lebanese territory, and through the latest threats we hear every day and the registered messages that arrive in a flourish at the doors of Beirut, Israel is trying to frighten us into not making investments. Israel attempts to confuse the social and economic systems and suggests that it has the power to dictate the development of events in Lebanon. Israel continues to slam all doors in Lebanon's face. The most obvious example of this is the continuing naval blockade of Sidon and Tyre. [passage omitted]

The sensitive situation in the whole region calls for awareness, follow ups, evaluation of the stances, and precautions against any danger that might threaten Lebanon. [end recording]

Israeli Shelling, Movements in South Reported

NC2608115495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The occupation troops today continued their aggression against the southern villages. The outskirts of Western al-Biqa', particularly Zillaya, Libbaya, Jabal Abu Rashid, and Birkat Jabbur, came under medium-and large-caliber artillery fire. Jabal al-Zahr, 'Ayn Fujur, Mimis, al-Surayrah, and Maydun came under intensive artillery shelling, which also targeted al-Nabatiyah neighborhoods and the deserted army barracks in al-Nabatiyah. The shelling became intermittent at noon. At this time, Israeli warplanes overflew and conducted mock raids over the south and Western al-Biqa'.

In the meantime, the resistance fighters shelled the positions of the occupation troops and their agents in Zummarayya, Kafr Huna, Taw'amat Niha, and Jazzin. The agents' radio today admitted that the aforementioned posts came under fire but claimed that no casualties were sustained.

The Zaghlah-Hasbayya-Zummarayya combat line has been the scene of Israeli military movements. Reinforcements were seen arriving from inside occupied Palestine.

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Alert Stepped Up on Iraqi Border; Army 'Beefed Up'

TA2508182195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian Army has beefed up its forces along the border with Iraq and stepped up their level of alert.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari says that the concentration of Syrian forces does not have an offensive capability, and it seems that these are precautionary measures by President al-Asad in case something happens in Iraq.

Radio Notes Reaction to Iraq Events, Jordan Role

JN2608075195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Aug 95

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Official circles in Syria continue to remain silent over the recent events in Iraq, including the defection of Husayn Kamil Hasan, the Iraqi president's son-in-law, to Jordan; Arab and Western reaction to it; and the Jordanian monarch's speech. The average Syrian citizen, however, who followed King Husayn's speech via television satellites, cannot conceal his astonishment at the sudden change in the Jordanian monarch's position. His astonishment was even greater when he learned that Iraqi television aired King Husayn's speech. The Syrians are now trying to predict the outcome of this clash between the former allies.

Sources from the 10 Palestinian factions that are opposed to the Oslo accord, have confirmed to Paris Radio Monte Carlo that King Husayn wants to play a far greater than Jordan's actual capability, thereby trying to bypass the big capitals of the region, namely, Cairo, Damascus, and Riyadh. He also wants to take advantage of the Western and Israeli support he has enjoyed since the Wadi al-'Arabah accord to bolster that role and impose his conditions on the Gulf states, which do not appear to have much faith in the sudden change in his position. The same sources also believe that the West views Jordan as the most important factor for change in Baghdad, with various scenarios, among them the return of the Hashemites to Iraq. The sources said that King Husayn's assertion that he has no ambitions in Iraq reveals his suppressed dreams.

Al-Asad, German Minister Spranger Hold Talks

JN2708185995 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received at the People's Palace Carl-Dieter Spranger, German minister for economic cooperation, his accompanying delegation, and Thomas Troemel, German ambassador in Damascus.

Minister Spranger conveyed to the president greetings from German President Roman Herzog and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. His excellency accepted these greetings and asked Spranger to convey similar greetings.

Talks dealt with bilateral relations and the desire to promote them as well as the Middle East peace process and the obstacles Israel is placing on its path.

Al-Zu'bi, German Minister Meet

JN2708195395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1930 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Carl-Dieter Spranger, German minister for economic cooperation and development, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the German ambassador in Damascus. They discussed bilateral relations and means to develop them in various fields for the benefit of the two countries.

At 1900 today, Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received Carl-Dieter Spranger. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi and the German ambassador in Damascus. They discussed the economic, technical, and commercial ties between the two countries and the available domains of cooperation to strengthen them.

Spranger Holds News Conference

JN2708182695 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 27 Aug (SANA)—Carl-Dieter Spranger, German minister for economic cooperation, said he was pleased with his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. He also expressed his profound gratitude to his excellency and the Syrian Government for the hospitality and good reception he and his delegation were accorded.

These remarks were made at a news conference Spranger held this afternoon. The news conference was attended by Thomas Troemel, the German ambassador

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in Damascus, journalists, and correspondents of Arab and foreign agencies at the Meridian Hotel in Damascus.

Spranger said: Syrian-German cooperation is very old, and such visits enhance bilateral cooperation. I will convey the Syrian desire to increase the visits.

He added: In all my talks with senior Syrian officials, I also noted that there is joint interest in enhancing Syrian-German relations and Syrian-EU relations and that there are possibilities which should be exploited to consolidate this cooperation, particularly after the great changes which occurred in 1990.

Spranger asserted that Syria plays an important role in the peace process and that without Syria it is impossible to achieve a comprehensive, just, and balanced [mutawazin] peace based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Afterward, Spranger answered journalists' questions regarding the results of his talks in Syria. He pointed out that positive talks were held on enhancing and promoting friendly relations and economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Al-'Imadi Receives Jordanian Industry Minister

JN2708170995 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 27 Aug (SANA)—Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, received 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, Jordanian minister of industry and trade, and his delegation at noon today. The Jordanian charge d'affaires in Damascus also attended the meeting.

Talks dealt with relations of fraternity and cooperation between Syria and Jordan as well as the importance of the Damascus International Fair in enhancing and promoting economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Paper: Israeli Attacks on Lebanon Fuels Resistance

JN2608091995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the ceaseless Israeli attacks on Lebanon, asserting that the Lebanese people firmly support the Lebanese national resistance, which seeks to terminate the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

The paper adds: It has become clear to the world community that the Israeli attacks on Lebanon are ordered by the Yitzhaq Rabin government under flimsy pretexts. These attacks epitomize the state terrorism Israel has been practicing in a bid to pressure Lebanon into accepting security negotiations. Israel is fueling the Lebanese people's hatred and prompting them to confront its aggression. This will only promote Lebanon's steadfastness and firmness over its rights. It will also prompt Lebanon to reject any capitulatory deals Israel might be seeking. Israel's aggression will only result in a larger number of casualties within the ranks of its army and agent militias. This is because the Lebanese national resistance will continue to resist occupation, enjoying the support of all sectors of the Lebanese people. Resistance epitomizes the Lebanese people's desire to liberate their territory, safeguard their country's territorial integrity, and establish a just peace based on terminating Israeli occupation.

Israel's 'Aggressive Policy' in Lebanon Viewed

JN2708084795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper TISHRIN addresses the ceaseless Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, saying: Southern Lebanon has turned into a factor disturbing the regional state of affairs, due to Israel's serious escalation and exacerbation of the situation there and the increasing attacks on southern Lebanese villages, towns, and cities. Worse still, Israel is massing additional troops in the occupied part of southern Lebanon, and reinforcing its troops and equipment there in pursuit of its aggressive policy, which is aimed at realizing expansionist goals.

TISHRIN adds: These practices have confirmed that the achievement of just and comprehensive peace is not on Israel's agenda. Israel is opposed to the implementation of Resolution 425. It seeks to consecrate its occupation of southern Lebanon by advancing flimsy pretexts and promoting falsehoods that cannot hold water.

TISHRIN goes on to say: By its endless and ceaseless attacks on southern Lebanon, Israel might be insinuating that the Lebanese national resistance is responsible for the escalation. However, Israeli attacks will only reap failure. This is because resistance is the natural reaction to occupation.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: It is the right of all Lebanese individuals to engage in acts of resistance to liberate their lands from Israeli occupation. Likewise, protecting resistance is both a national and pan-Arab duty. Israel is trying to circumvent this by advancing flimsy pretexts and excuses aimed at retaining its

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control of southern Lebanon, disturbing the climate there, compromising Lebanon's national march and reconciliation effort. Israel has continued to harbor evil and treachery for Lebanon. It has reached the conclusion that the process of national reconciliation and security relaxation in Lebanon can thwart the plans to divide the country along sectarian lines. That is why it has continued its attacks on southern Lebanon.

Press Criticizes Palestinian-Israeli Agreement

JN2808071295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN comments on the agreement signed by the limited Palestinian self-rule authority with Israel to transfer some administrative powers in eight areas. Reports said the agreement came after tough negotiations.

The newspaper says the issue of the transfer of powers is nothing more than an Israeli attempt to circumvent what is basic and substantial in the peace process. Israel has so far not pledged to redeploy. It also completely refuses to withdraw from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israel has managed to exact from the Palestinian Authority [PA] what ensures that it will maintain its occupation. In fact, Israel has made the PA a security partner to bolster occupation, control security affairs, and pursue Palestinian citizens and opponents of the Oslo agreement.

TISHRIN adds that developments in the occupied territories prove the above. While a draft agreement to transfer some powers was being signed, Israel extended its decision to besiege Jericho and close the West Bank, launched a large-scale arrest campaign, and stormed Palestinian establishments in Jerusalem and other Palestinian cities. Israel thus confirms that it is impossible to hold negotiations on Hebron in the second phase of the Oslo agreement. Israel added Hebron to the final-status negotiations, along with the issues of water, Jerusalem, the settlers, redeployment, and refugees.

The newspaper concludes: No doubt, the PA's submission to Israel's conditions and blackmail shows that the Oslo agreement serves Israel's interests alone. All the points in this agreement are far removed from the requirements and foundations of peace. The situation in the occupied territories is getting more complicated and is exploding daily because the Oslo agreement has not achieved justice. This agreement maintained occupation and enabled Israel to control the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This contradicts Palestinian rights and the conditions of ending occupation and self-determination, which are indispensable principles to achieve peace in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH asserts that Israel seizes any opportunity to reveal its true intentions that contradict the conditions, foundations, and bases of peace, which were formulated at the Madrid conference.

The newspaper adds: Anyone who claims that a peaceful shift has taken place is mistaken. This is because the issue which has engaged the region for almost a half century still exists as long as the Palestinians are displaced and as long as several parties are pursuing them.

AL-BA'TH says Israel thrives on regional and world crises. This shows that Israeli officials look for new hotbeds of tension to relieve them of accountability and keep them free from the pressures of other nations which are preoccupied with other developments that affect their interests.

The newspaper adds: Anyone who observes Israel's current policies feels that Israel tirelessly seeks to create new issues to free it from pressures which the cosponsors of peace should put on the side that is rejecting peace. This side refuses to withdraw from the territories it occupied by force.

AL-BA'TH notes that Israel's escalation of its aggression against Lebanon, as well as the new Israeli tone on the Washington negotiations on the Syrian track, show how the leaders of Israel use evasion tactics by preparing more aggressive schemes and escalating developments to allow Israel to control the region.

The paper concludes: Developments show that Israel is pouring oil on fire so that there will never be any chance to save the region from the tribulations of the Zionist expansionist policy.

Commentary Says 'Ball Always in Israel's Court'

JN2608153595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 26 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Syria was clear and sincere in its positive response to the will of the international community seeking to achieve security and stability in the region. Likewise, Syria also cautioned against the threats of separate and inequitable [la mutaqafi'ah] agreements, which Israel wanted to be an alternative to the just and comprehensive peace that translates the resolutions of international legitimacy and embodies the principle of land for peace.

Perhaps, the first and most important principle to which the Syrian policy adhered was that peace and

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occupation cannot coexist. This is a principle that was approved by the whole world. Only Israel tried to defy and to combine peace with occupation in the distorted Oslo agreement that resulted in a deal tailored to Israeli demands. That agreement contained unjust conditions for the Palestinian people and was a means to penetrate into the Arab arena through establishing political, economic, and cultural relations and controlling the region by formulas that do not hide plans to fragment the pan-Arab fabric of the region, change its identity, and usurp its resources.

All know that the Oslo agreement has maintained the Israeli occupation of Arab territories. This did not open the way for peace, but to the contrary aggravated the situation and increased violence and disturbances in the occupied Arab territories, and disappointed the world after disappointing the Palestinian people.

Moreover, as far as the Oslo agreement is concerned and in spite of the faults it contained, Israel backed away from its promises and failed to respect its pledges. It resorted to several tricks in a bid to implement its intentions of giving the Palestinian people only leftovers of sweet promises. It resorted to procrastination to maneuver on peace tracks to extract more concessions from the limited self-rule authority until the Taba agreement cooled down international aspirations and efforts to realize a just and comprehensive peace that ensures the return of land and rights to their owners, realizes the interests of all parties, and builds factors of security and stability in the region.

Because peace and occupation cannot coexist, as Syria has repeatedly stressed, Israel should have learned lessons from the Oslo agreement which the Palestinian people rejected in various ways. However, instead of learning lessons and accelerating a clear commitment to the principles of peace and the Madrid conference — including full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories and establishing just, comprehensive, and equitable [mutakafi'] peace with all it commitments — Israel began to present unfair conditions on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in a manner that obstructed the opportunities of real progress. This shows that Israel does not intend to realize peace on the basis of respect of international resolutions and consensus on establishing just peace.

The Israeli terrorist operations in the occupied Arab territories have noticeably escalated, and the aggression against southern Lebanon has taken a dangerous dimensions and has become a daily phenomenon. The provocation and blackmailing operations against Syria have increased in a relentless Israeli bid to influence international public opinion by its numerous accusations, ignoring its full responsibility for the situation in the region and the rising fears of exasperating developments and wasting a unique chance for realizing just and comprehensive peace.

It has become clear that it is not enough for Israel to claim that it seeks peace, but talk should be coupled with action. Israel is aware before any other party — although it evades facts — that peace requires abandoning the policy of aggression, settlements, expansion, and hegemony. This keeps the ball always in Israel's court, and always holds Israel responsible for faltering and obstructing progress in the peace march and the escalation of violence.

Press Demands European Role in Peace Talks

JN2708071795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses the European role in the peace process, which has been stalemated as a result of Israel's impossible demands, indicating that the exchange of visits by Arab and European officials is aimed at discussing the efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that would achieve security and stability in a region whose affairs are of interest to the European states before others, given the geographic considerations and common interests entailed.

AL-BA'TH adds: Internal and external woes have precluded the emergence of a vigorous European role although the Europeans are heading toward unity and despite the moves they have made to render themselves an international bloc to be reckoned with. Despite all this, we in the Arab East cannot absolve the European states of the responsibility of playing a dynamic role in the peace process, particularly since the achievement of security and stability in the Arab East will yield benefits to us as well as them. The Europeans have in the past few years made several attempts to invigorate their role and promote a peace grounded in international legitimacy and the relevant UN resolutions. Nonetheless, the European role has always run into endless Israeli snags. The Europeans have confined themselves to pronouncements supportive of the efforts to achieve a just peace, even though they reiterated their support for and understanding of Syria's stands, which have constantly championed the peace initiative and expressed a willingness to accept its components and meet its requirements.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Now that the Rabin government has put the peace process in deep freeze

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advancing flimsy pretexts and making unrealistic demands, we believe that the EC has the opportunity to play a vigorous role and take interest in an issue that is of great importance to it.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the same issue, saying: We in Syria have always demanded a dynamic and vigorous European role in the region against the background of Israeli efforts to keep the EC at bay and prevent it from influencing the regional course of events, particularly when such influence is detrimental to Israeli interests and expansionist ambitions. For some time, the European scene has remained hostage to the Zionist propaganda, and to the pressures and blackmail of the Zionist lobby, which has constantly worked to prevent the neighboring European states from involving themselves in the efforts to address regional problems. This lobby has constantly sought to frustrate the Euro-Arab dialogue, and to prevent the Europeans from making an effort to resolve the regional conflict. When they felt the threat to their security and became aware of the dimensions of the conspiracy and of the short-term and long-term Israeli purposes and objectives, the EC members rebelled against the efforts to marginalize, obscure, and obliterate the European role. However, Israel set out to frustrate and thwart European efforts to contribute to a solution and achieve just and comprehensive peace, as it did with UN efforts in the past, even though it was certain that these efforts were aimed at complementing and supporting U.S. efforts. This European involvement could have promoted and facilitated the implementation of Washington's initiative.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying that the international community, headed by the U.S. cosponsor, must play a firmer and more vigorous and forceful role to rectify the political process, bring it back on track, and free it of Israel's maneuvers and land mines.

Paper Terms Killing of Egyptian POW's 'Crime'

JN2608094995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the heinous and dastardly crimes the Israeli army committed against the Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 aggressions, saying that there are attempts to sidestep these crimes. The Israeli Government has not taken the required practical and serious measures to take to account the Israeli military commanders who committed these crimes.

AL-THAWRAH adds: It is clear to everybody that the killing of the Egyptian POW's by Israeli soldiers after they were forced to dig their own graves, as made clear by recent Israeli disclosures, constitutes a crime by all ethical standards. Humanitarian covenants and international law deem the killings a crime.

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India

Article Urges Effort To 'Influence' U.S. Policy

BK2008160195 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Aug 95 p 11

[Article by Sumit Ganguly: "India needs to set goal in ties with US"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] What explains the apparent American insensitivity to India's security concerns? The latest manifestation of such seeming callousness involves the Clinton administration's efforts to obtain a one-time exemption to the Pressler Amendment and supply Pakistan with P-3 Orion aircraft and Harpoon sea-skimming missiles. This attempt to circumvent the strictures of Pressler appears especially puzzling given that neither weapons system would enable Pakistan to mitigate its genuine security problems, those of internal stability and governance. The answer to this conundrum is complex. Contrary to popular belief in India, the American foreign policy establishment pays scant attention to India. Consequently dexterous Pakistani diplomacy which has sought to portray Pakistan as a "moderate Islamic state" has had some resonance in Washington D.C.

Why does India count for so little in Washington D.C. and why are Pakistan's concerns better addressed?

For the past 40-odd years India has almost unremittingly chastised the U.S. for real and imagined slights. This legacy of the cold war years stalks the corridors of Foggy Bottom. Consequently, few, if any American diplomats readily pick up India's brief.

India also failed to cultivate and support its most natural ally within American society. After the Nixon "tilt" policy during the 1971 war, the government of India lashed out against a vulnerable but hitherto sympathetic community. American scholars of India. Unless the work dealt with the arcana of Sanskrit chants or Indian temple sculpture little, if any, hope existed of obtaining visa. Worse still, insidious suggestions were frequently made about putative ties between American academics and the Central Intelligence Agency. This campaign of visa denial and personal vilification mightily contributed to the decline of Indian studies in the U.S. Resultantly, India lost a key constituency in the U.S. Quite belatedly, the visa problem is now being addressed.

Pakistan, on the other hand, has had a more fitful relationship with the U.S. Again, popular notions notwithstanding, the relationship was neither unbroken, nor always cordial. For example, prior to the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, US- Pakistan relations had declined precipitously over such issues as human rights and non-proliferation.

But Pakistani diplomats and military personnel have carefully forged bonds with their American counterparts. Consequently, these ties enabled Pakistan to cope with the lean years. With Pakistan's utility to the U.S. dramatically declining in the wake of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan Pakistani diplomacy skillfully sought to protect the U.S.-Pakistan relationship. Even when General Mirza Aslam Beg spoke of "strategic defiance" and heaped encomium on Saddam Husayn, Pakistan's political leadership unequivocally threw in its lot with the coalition forces. By contrast, in India, the mere refuelling of U.S. aircraft provided the grounds to bring down a weak, minority government. In the wake of the Gulf War Pakistan successfully sold itself to the U.S. as a "moderate Islamic state," a remote island of stability and rectitude amidst a turbulent tide sweeping through the Islamic world.

What lies ahead for Indo-U.S. relations? The answer depends to a very large extent on the kinds of initiatives that India is prepared to embark upon.

Reflexive reactions to every American decision to transfer arms to Pakistan accomplishes little. Both sides resort to the usual litany of careworn arguments. Eventually, the overall relationship emerges more frayed than before.

India needs to fashion a policy that is less reactive and includes positive goals that it seeks to achieve. It needs to build a domestic consensus on the minimal and maximal goals that it would like to pursue in its dealings with the U.S. The puerile preferences of many in the Indian political scene notwithstanding the United States will continue to affect India's future well into the next century. This is the time to influence American choices.

Kashmir Abductors Said To Soften Stand, Raise Hopes

BK2708153895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1511 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 27 (AFP) — A shadowy Muslim guerrilla group in Kashmir holding four Westerners has softened its stand, giving rise to hopes for an early settlement to the hostage crisis, officials said Sunday [27 August].

The fresh hopes for a solution to the crisis came amid reports of the death of 22 people including 16 Muslim separatists slain in separate unrelated incidents overnight in this troubled northern Indian state, they said.

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A top police official said the Al-Faran guerrilla group holding the four tourists "is showing some softness in its earlier stand."

"That is bound to solve the crisis, but one cannot be specific as to when exactly the crisis would end," the official said without elaborating.

Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Donald Hitchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, were abducted between July 4 and 8 in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, was killed in the first week of August.

The previously-unknown group is pressing for the release of 15 jailed colleagues in exchange for the four siezed Westerners. Al- Faran had previously named 21 imprisoned guerrillas it wanted freed for the swap.

Indian authorities also said the Kashmir administration was still talking to the Al-Faran, but gave no further details.

Al-Faran has maintained a silence since releasing last Tuesday a set of five photographs and a taperecording of the hostages to show that the two Britons, an American and a German were alive.

Officials said the government had asked for more evidence from Al-Faran.

Leaders of the Muslim separatist campaign raging in Kashmir since 1989 say Al-Faran comprises "Indian agents." Indian officials say the group has links with Harkat-ul-Ansar, which comprises mainly Afghan mercenaries.

Police officials, meanwhile, said eight Muslim militants died in an encounter with Indian soldiers late Saturday in the border district of Kupwara.

Soldiers in another overnight gunbattle in southern Anantnag killed five rebels belonging to the dominant Hizbul Mujahedeen separatist faction, they said, adding that three other guerrillas died elsewhere in the state.

Separatist gunmen shot dead four Muslim civilians overnight in Kupwara, police said in this Kashmir summer capital and added that two bodies were found at an Islamic shrine in Srinagar's walled city area.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) meanwhile said India's ruling Congress (I) party, for the first time since the Muslim insurgency gripped Kashmir six years ago, called a rally Sunday to kick off a political campaign in the state.

Congress leaders at the rally, held in the northern town of Baramulla, urged party workers to prepare the ground for possible elections to the provincial legislature and said the fear of separatist violence should not deter them, PTI said.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has said his government was committed to holding elections in Kashmir in a move to pave the way for the beginning of a political process in the strife-torn Himalayan region.

Muslim secessionist groups have warned that they would not allow elections to be conducted here.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir since 1989 when the anti-Indian rebellion turned violent.

Muslim Leader Calls For People To Rescue Hostages

BK2508142195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1353 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Aug 25 (AFP) — A top Kashmiri leader Friday [25 August] renewed appeals to free four western hostages held by a Muslim separatist group as negotiations failed to yield any apparent breakthrough.

Shabir Shah, a prominent Muslim politician, told reporters it was "the moral duty" of the people of Kashmir to rescue the hostages from their abductors, whom he described as "Indian agents".

"It is a shameful and unpardonable act by the kidnappers, whom I believe are Delhi-based Afghan nationals hired by India. We will not spare them when we get them. They will pay for it," he said.

Shah said he and other Kashmiri leaders had made efforts to determine who the abductors were. "We failed, but firmly believe now that they are Indian agents."

Meanwhile, a state administration spokesman said efforts were continuing to secure the release of the hostages.

"We are optimistic that sense will finally prevail on the abductors and they will let them (hostages) free," the spokesman said of the ongoing talks between the abductors and government negotiators.

He said the Al-Faran separatist group holding two Britons, an American and a German are yet to relent on their previous demand for an exchange of 15 jailed Muslim separatists with the four Western hostages.

"They are still demanding the release ... but the Indian government has ruled out a swap," the spokesman said but declined to give details of the dragging talks. "We cannot divulge what is being discussed," he added.

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The Al-Faran seized Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Donald Hutchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26, between July 4 and 8 but killed a fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27 in the first week of August.

The spokesman said the Kashmir authorities were in touch with the shadowy separatist group through "intermediaries" and added New Delhi has "sufficient proof to believe that the hostages are alive and safe."

Sources have said the renegade separatist group is likely to furnish new evidence on the well-being of the hostages.

The state administration on Wednesday released photographs and tape-recorded messages of the hostages obtained from the Al-Faran. The four said they had "no problems" in cassette recordings offered as proof of their well-being.

India says the Al-Faran is an offshoot of Harkat-ul-Ansar, which kidnapped two Britons last year and released them unharmed after 17 days. The hardline Muslim separatist group disowns Al-Faran as a breakaway organisation.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir since 1989 when the guerrillas stepped up a campaign against Indian rule.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting trouble in the divided state.

Minister Criticizes Bhutto's Remarks on Hostages

BK2608162295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister has described as false the reported statement by the Pakistani prime minister that the foreign hostages in the Kashmir Valley are being held by the Indian intelligence agency.

Mr. S.B. Chavan said he will ask the External Affairs Ministry to take up the issue through diplomatic channels to counter such false propaganda by Islamabad. He was replying to a short-duration discussion in the Rajya Sabha today on the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the center will not concede to the demand by some for self-determination as there is no such provision in our Constitution.

The home minister made it clear that elections in the state will be held in a free and fair manner and assured the members that the central government will not impose any leadership on the people of Jammu and Kashmir. On the quantum of autonomy, he said the matter can be taken up for discussion after the elected government takes charge in the state. The home minister said he will discuss with the prime minister regarding constituting a parliamentary committee to advise the center on the Kashmir affairs.

Initiating the discussion, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Sikander Bakht, said the activities of Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI [Inter Service Intelligence], are on the increase not only in Jammu and Kashmir but in other parts of the country also. Members asked the government to take concrete steps to solve the Kashmir issue. They stressed the need for bringing the misguided youth to the national mainstream and suggested opening of reforms centers for the purpose. Members charged Pakistan with aiding and abetting terrorism in the valley and urged the government for steps to bring the people of Kashmir closer with the rest of the country. They also wanted an economic and political package for the state. They said Article 370 [of Indian Constitution granting special status to Kashmir] is being misused by pro-Pakistan elements to create internal disorder. They asked the center to hold the elections at the earliest so that an elected representative government is installed in the state.

Sonia Gandhi Deplores 'Slow Pace of Investigation'

BK2808032395 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Akshari H. Zaidi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sonia Gandhi today publicly attacked the Narasimha Rao government for the "slow pace of investigation" in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. She accused the government of compromising on the principles for which Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi had sacrificed their lives and expressed concern over the spread of divisive forces in the country.

Speaking for the first time from a public platform at the Ram Lila grounds here, Ms Gandhi told a massive gathering in Hindi: Aap meri vedna ko samajh sakte hein. Chaar saal aur teen mahine bitne ke haad bhi unki (Rajiv Gandhi's) hatya ki janch itni dhimi gati se chal rahi hai (You can understand my anguish that even after four years and three months of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, the investigation into the case is being done at a slow pace).

Mujhe us parivar ki sadasya hune ka gaurav prapt hai jis ne is desh ki seva mein apna jivan arpit kar diya. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi aur Rajiv Gandhi ke kuchh sidhant the, drishti thi. Unhonne un sidhanton ke saath kabhi samjhauta nahin kiya. Jin usoolon ke liye unhonne apna balidaan diya aaj unhi usoolon ka imtehan liya ja raha hai...Desh mein algav vaad fail

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raha hai (I have the honour of being a member of the family that spent all its life in the service of the people. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi had certain principles and a vision. They never compromised on their principles. The principles for which they sacrificed their lives, are under test today... Divisiveness s spreading in the country).

Ms Gandhi was speaking on the occasion of the 5 Ist birth anniversary of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. She concluded her speech in about 10 minutes. However, she did not indicate whether any of her children would be joining politics. Thereafter, she descended from the dais and went straight to the milling crowds behind police cordon and barricades. While her daughter, Priyanka, and the Special Protection Group security personnel tried to keep pace with her, Ms Gandhi broke past the cordons and mixed with the people talking to some women.

She spent about 10 minutes with the people, listening to their grievances. One of the women, Ramsuari Pandey, with whom Ms Gandhi spoke, later told The Times of India News Service: "I told her about my problems... Soniaji held my hand and promised that she will be back soon in Amethi."

At the venue of the rally huge cutouts of Ms Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were put up. Thousands of banners and posters welcoming her to this erstwhile parliamentary constituency of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi were put up However, contrary to the expectations of the organisers of the meeting, Rahul Gandhi did not come to Amethi.

Petroleum minister Satish Sharma, who represents the Amethi constituency in the Lok Sabha, former Union minister and secretary of the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust Rameshwar Thakur, secretary of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation Pullok Chatterjee, besides Priyanka, were present on the dais. Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijay Singh, Mohsina Kidwai, P.R. Kumaramangalam, H.K. L Bhagat, Suresh Pachauri, Bhuvnesh Kalita, Balram Singh Yadav and Hooda were also present.

Earlier, when welcoming her, Mr Sharma resorted to raising slogans, Ms Gandhi is reported to have asked Mr Thakur to tell Mr Sharma not to do so. "I know you have come here to listen to Saniaji and not me," Captain Sharma said and invited Ms Gandhi to come to the mike.

Ms Gandhi started her speech with reminding the gathering how Rajiv Gandhi had worked for the uplift of the downtrodden and ultimately sacrificed his life for the cause. "I felt that the best way I could fulfil the dreams of Rajiv Gandhi was by doing something for the poor. It was with this purpose that I started the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation," she said, recounting the activities of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation.

Editorials Criticize Gandhi Remarks

BK2808063695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Three Indian newspapers carry editorials on recent remarks made by Mrs Sonia Gandhi in a speech at a political gathering in Amethi on 24 August.

Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English on 26 August on page 11 carries an editorial entitled: " Straws From Sonia," in which it says that "congressmen desperately looking for straws to clutch at can stop their search. Mrs Sonia Gandhi on her visit to Amethi on Thursday [24 August] threw several straws — and nothing else — at them." It adds that Mrs Gandhi "treated the two Congress factions with equal disdain." The editorial then defends he right to attack the government over the slowness of the investagtion into her husband's assassination but adds that Mrs Gandhi should "be asked to substantiate her charge of deliberate delay by the authorities with whatever facts she has. If she has none, or offers none, she had indeed made a political statement at Amethi." Continuing, the editorial points out three points in Mrs Gandhi's address: "One she is the heir to a family legacy of service and leadership to the nation. Two the Nehru-Rajiv-Indira policies were based on lofty principles, which are now being abandoned. Three, the deviation has led to division and schism." The editorial believes "all these three points could be viewed as part of an innocuous emotional appeal," and concludes that Mrs Gandhi did not give any clear political signal in her address.

Delhi THE PIONEER in English on 26 Aug in its editorial on page 8 entitled: "Playing Politics" says: "Mrs. Sonia Gandhi's speech at Amethi, where she nurses a captive audience, is remarkable both for its forthrightness and reticence." It describes her "calculated outburst" on unrest in the country and the investigation into her husband's assassination as merely "political posturing" and "mischievous," adding that Congress "leaders" have "gone into a tizzy over her observations by indulging in indiscriminate over- analysis." The editorial then wonders "why Mrs Sonia Gandhi has not expressed any disappointment over the tardy progress of investigations into one of the biggest scandals that has come to light — the Bofors deal" and asks "Surely, she would like to see her husband's name exonerated in that connection?" Concluding, the editorial says "Mrs Sonia Gandhi should decide once and for all whether or not she wants to enter the political ring."

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Finally, Madras THE HINDU in English on 26 August on page 12 in its editorial entitled: "An Unhealthy Trend" notes that "Mrs. Sonia Gandhi's outburst at a public meeting in Amethi" has "torn the facade off the studiously cultivated pretence" that she is disinterested in politics. Continuing, it regrets that her "politically loaded observations were clearly intended to rekindle within the Congress(I) sentiment for the Nehru-Gandhi dynastic charisma," which, it suggests, would introduce "regressive ingredients" that "would militate against the development of a healthy value-based political culture in this country" and would push the Congress Party back to "a state of torpor." The paper suggests that "with the failure to implement a plan for a renewed strategy or an agenda that is more in tune with the ground realities, the temptation to seek comfort in the appeal of dynastic charisma is irresistible for the average Congress party member." Regarding the Rajiv Gandhi case, the editorial adds that "Mrs. Gandhi must make clear what else is lacking in the Government's approach to the issue if her words are to carry political weight." It concludes by saying that "to succumb to the lure of jaded formulas such as dynastic charisma would not only weaken the Congress(I) but would represent a jarring note in an otherwise vigorously functioning democratic political system."

Officials Voice 'Concern' Over Assassination Probe

BK2508131995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Members in both the houses of Parliament cutting across party lines have expressed serious concern at the delay in booking up culprits involved in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination. In the Lok Sabha, the speaker said that all efforts should be made to expedite investigation and the culprits should be booked at the earliest. Mr. Shivraj Patil said this when a Congress-I member, Mr. Arjun Singh, did not seek adopting of a resolution on the subject that he had moved during the zero hour. He instead wanted the speaker to make a statement in view of the members' concern. In his intervention, the commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, said that many steps have been taken of late to speed up the trial. He expressed the hope that the trial will be completed by December and the government will extend all cooperation to the Jain Commission to complete its report at the earliest.

In the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Chidambaram is to make a statement on the issue later during the day.

Rao Vows Early Completion of Gandhi Murder Probe

BK2608133095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister says the government and the Congress-I are committed and duty-bound to ensure that the Rajiv Gandhi assassination investigation concludes at the earliest and the assassins convicted.

Addressing the general body meeting of the Congress Party in Parliament, CPP-I, in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said there is no compromise on this and there should be no reservation in anybody's mind on the matter. He said the union minister of state, Mr. P. Chidambaram, is taking a personal interest in ensuring early completion of the case and it is a matter of another two or three months now, and by December this year the trial is expected to be completed. Mr. Rao said all aspects of the case have been looked into and there no doubt that it would result in the conviction of the assassins. Referring to the Jain Commission, the prime minister said Mr. Chidambaram has been told to take a decision regarding any problem pertaining to certain sensitive documents.

Kashmir Leh Council Elections Scheduled

BK2708163895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, elections in four constituencies of the Leh Autonomous Hill Development Council begin tomorrow. Elaborate security arrangements have been made for free and fair conduct of polls. The Congress-I has already bagged 22 seats of the 30-member council unopposed. Four members are to be nominated by the Jammu and Kashmir governor from amongst minorities and women. Two Congress-I candidates and six independents are in the fray.

Police Disperse Poll Protesters

BK2808064595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0624 GMT 28 Aug 95

[By Surinder Oberoi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Aug 28 (AFP) — Indian troops on Monday [28 August] fired shots in the air and lobbed tear gas to disperse Muslim demonstrators opposed to holding legislative elections in the state, witnesses said.

Security forces fired about a dozen shots and more than 100 tear gas shells in the residential district of Maisuma after 200 slogan-chanting Muslims took to the streets.

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Some 10 people were injured when the protesters stoned the police and paramilitary personnel as they were prevented from marching to a local UN office, witnesses said.

The troops retaliated injuring some people including Yasin Malik, president of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), the premier Muslim separatist group in the northern state.

The marchers shouted slogans against Monday's election to a 30- member autonomous council in the Kashmiri hill district of Leh, which adjoins the troubled Kashmir Valley.

Four of the seats are to be filled Monday. Four others are to be nominated by the authorities. The Leh election is seen as a prelude to legislative polls to pick a new Kashmir state assembly.

"No election, no selection, we want freedom," the protesters shouted in unison. Dozens of tear gas shells fell into houses in the area, which had been heavily fortified by security forces.

A spokesman for the demonstrators said Kashmiri Muslims were opposed to New Delhi's plans to hold the legislative elections and committed to seceding from India.

Others who took part in the protest included Shabir Shah and Abul Ghani Lone, prominent leaders of a bloody Muslim separatist campaign in Kashmir which has claimed more than 12,000 lives since 1989.

Srinagar, summer capital of Kashmir, also observed a strike to protest the Leh election. All shops, banks and businesses were shut, and most civilian traffic remained off the roads.

Monday's protest came two days after Kashmir Governor K.V. Krishna Rao vowed to organise elections to pick a new state government. "My administration is committed to holding free and fair elections to bring democracy in the state," Rao told a meeting of officials here.

"Even (Muslim) militants shunning the path of violence can participate in the elections," said the governor, a New Delhi appointee. "My aim is to restore democracy in the state."

Rao, however, did not say when the elections would be held. The last state elections, in 1987, were marred by allegations of vote-rigging.

Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has been ruled directly by New Delhi since January 1990. Militants fighting to end Indian rule over Kashmir have vowed to boycott and disrupt any polls.

Rao's comments came as the Congress (I) party of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao organised the first public meeting in six years in the Kashmir Valley in support of the proposed elections, the Indian Express said. It was attended by about 6,000 Muslims, the paper said.

Most mainstream politicians have fled the Kashmir Valley fearing the militants, who India says are armed and trained by Pakistan. Islamabad denies the charge.

Voting Said 'Progressing Smoothly'

BK2808091295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 30 percent of the votes were polled till noon in the elections to four constituencies of the Leh Autonomous Hill Development Council. The poll started at 0800 this morning and is now progressing smoothly. Our Leh correspondent reports that the turnout was thin in the morning but picked up later. Two Congress-I candidates and six independents are in the fray. The Congress-I has already secured 22 seats of the 30-member council unopposed. Four members are to be nominated by the state governor from among minorities and women.

Iran

Contract Signed With Russia on Nuclear Plant

LD2808123995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite U.S. opposition with the building of the nuclear power plant of Bushehr, Tehran and Moscow have signed a contract on the completion of the plant.

The deputy minister of nuclear energy of Russia and the accompanying delegation, who have been in Tehran for 10 days to talk with the Iranian side, will probably stay a few more days to conclude talks.

Russia has promised that the building of the Bushehr power plant will be completed within the next three months. And the contract reaching its executive stages has made the U.S. even more angry, so America has once again presented its baseless accusation on Iran's desire to have access to nuclear weapons. As viewed by the International Atomic Energy Agency and Energy Ministry of Russia, Tehran has no intention of producing atomic weapons.

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London Paper Details Deal

LD2708184095 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 27 Aug 95 p 17

[Report by chief foreign correspondent Con Coughlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran has taken a significant step forward in its plans to build the "Islamic bomb" with the revelation that Russia has signed a new nuclear trade deal with Tehran. The agreement will provoke renewed diplomatic repercussions between Washington and Moscow. The United States regards Iran as a "pariah" state and has lobbied hard to persuade the Russians to abandon plans to sell nuclear technology to Tehran.

THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH can exclusively reveal that in the latest deal Moscow has agreed to sell Iran two nuclear reactors. They are to be installed at one of Iran's top secret nuclear research bunkers at the Neka nuclear research complex in northern Iran.

Earlier this year the Russians provoked an international storm of protest when they signed a 525 million pounds sterling agreement to complete a controversial nuclear power plant at the Iranian port of Bushehr in the Gulf. The Americans were so incensed that President Clinton personally delivered a six-page intelligence report on Iran's bomb-making ambitions to Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader, when he visited Moscow last May.

In their relentless search for foreign currency, the Russians have made no apologies for attempting to sell their nuclear expertise to the highest bidder. But the Americans will regard Moscow's latest agreement with Tehran as a deal too far.

The agreement was signed following a secret visit to Moscow earlier this month by a top-level Iranian delegation led by Reza Amrollahi, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation.

One member of the delegation was Seyyed Mohammad Rasuli, head of the Isfahan Nuclear Centre which is regarded by Western experts as the nerve centre for Iran's nuclear weapons research programme.

The official reason for the mission was to work out the details of the original Russian nuclear contract, under which Moscow agreed to complete construction of two nuclear reactors at the Bushehr power station. But while in Moscow, the Iranians negotiated a deal whereby the Russians agreed to deliver two 400 megawatt reactors to a secret Iranian nuclear research complex at Neka in the remote north Iranian province of Mazandaran, close to the border with Turkmenistan. The new deal was signed last weekend when the Russians reciprocated by sending a delegation of nuclear experts to Tehran.

Little is known about the Neka complex apart from the fact that it is one of a network of highly sensitive Iranian nuclear research establishments which Western intelligence officials believe are being used to build Iran's version of the Islamic bomb.

Iran's Ayatollahs have made no secret of their determination to acquire nuclear weapons and experts believe Iran could develop a nuclear capability within five years. International agencies such as the United Nations will regard Iran's nuclear pretensions with added urgency in the light of last week's disturbing revelations by Rolf Ekeus, the Chief UN weapons investigator, that Iraq, Iran's neighbour and bitter enemy, came close to assembling its own nuclear weapon during the Gulf War in 1991.

Madeleine Albright, the American ambassador to the United Nations, described Mr. Ekeus's report as "chilling."

There is now every indication that Iran, a bigger and wealthier country, intends to emulate the Iraqis.

By the beginning o next year an estimated 1,500 Russian nuclear technicians will have arrived in Iran to begin work on the Bushehr complex. That number can now be expected to double once work commences on the Neka project.

In spite of the concern of the United States and other Western governments about Russian involvement in the Bushehr nuclear power plant, most nuclear experts believed it was unlikely that its reactors could be used to make nuclear weapons.

But the same cannot be said for the Neka deal. The fact that Iran will be able to build two nuclear reactors in a remote, underground bunker, far away from the prying eyes of the UN's nuclear weapons inspectorate, should send a collective shiver down the spines of the West's intelligence community.

Iran's nuclear weapons programme, which the ruling Ayatollahs refer to as "The Great Secret Project," was initiated in the mid- 1980s. The Mullahs are convinced that nuclear weapons are "the most important strategic guarantee" for their survival.

The Iranians have exploited every available opportunity to acquire nuclear technology and resources. Apart from the russian deals they have received assistance from both Pakistan and China.

In addition, in 1992 they signed a secret deal with the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan to purchase four nuclear warheads. The deal was foiled by agents working for America's Central Intelligence Agency.

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Iran is currently estimated to be spending nearly 650 million pounds sterling a year on its nuclear programme. The vast amounts of money at the Mullahs' disposal means they are able to "buy" some of the world's top nuclear experts. Hundreds of foreign technicians, mainly from China and Russia, are already employed by Iran in nuclear research, training Iranian specialists, supervising the construction of facilities and setting up nuclear reactors.

No one doubts the Ayatollahs have the will to build a nuclear weapon, and it will not be long before they have the means.

Now that the truth about Iraq's nuclear programme has been revealed, critics will argue the time has come for the United Nations to direct all its energies towards eradicating the nuclear threat posed by Iran.

U.S. Urged Against 'Interference' in Russian Deal

NC2508125295 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Aug 95 p 2

[Editorial: "The New World"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran has made a deal with Russia for completing a nuclear power plant which the Germans had started before the revolution. The U.S. didn't like this deal and asked the Russians to stop.

The Russians didn't.

Iran has made a deal with France's Total for the exploration and extraction of oil on two offshore oil fields. The U.S. didn't like this deal and asked France to stop.

France didn't.

Iran has made a deal with South Africa for the storage and re- exportation of oil. The U.S. doesn't like it and has asked its energy secretary on a visit to South Africa to prevent the deal.

The pattern here is that one country tries to survive, to do what is in its best interest, while another country doesn't like it and tells everyone to stop.

It's a familiar pattern. Parents do it to children; dictators do it to subjects; husbands do it to wives; imperialists and colonizers do it to the world.

The United States should be reminded that the Cold War has ended; there are no more superpowers; one country, no matter how powerful, cannot dictate to another. These aren't only words. The U.S. has experienced this ever since it imposed sanctions on Iran last June and no one listened.

The matter is simple. Countries are like individuals. They need to survive; they do what is in their best interest—and if they don't, they have lost their instinct to survive.

The United States should learn from Vietnam and from the former Shah: in the long-run, arrogance and interference don't pay. Countries should be left alone to be independent. This creates a very complex, insecure and unpredictable world which we now call the new world order, or disorder.

Welcome to this new world.

U.S. Said Opposed to Tehran-Pretoria Ties

NC2508123795 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Aug 95 p 12

[Commentary by Nohsen Pakay'in: "Sensitivity to Tehran-Pretoria Relations Reveals U.S. Security"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—The United States, the main supporter of South Africa's former apartheid regime, does not hide the fact that it is not pleased with the growing relations between Tehran and Pretoria.

A number of reasons may well explain America's uneasiness over Iran-South African relations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran supplies about 70 percent of South Africa's oil needs. In addition, an agreement to store 15 million barrels of Iranian oil in South Africa's depots is nearing conclusion and could be signed within a week or two.

The United States, in June, imposed a total economic embargo on Iran for its alleged sponsorship of "terrorism" and pursuit of a nuclear program. It has asked the South African Government not to sign the oil storage agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran and support its imposed sanctions.

If U.S. friends in Europe, such as Germany, France and Italy, with their trade links to Iran amounting to billions of dollars, refuse to follow the trade sanctions, American sensitivity to Tehran-Pretoria relations can be nothing more than a manifestation of their growing alienation. It is understandable that, to date, only the Zionist regime supports their sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

The South African Embassy recently reopened in Tehran and the new South African ambassador has arrived to assume his post. After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iran immediately broke off all ties with the then racist regime of Pretoria.

The Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, arrived in South Africa Tuesday [15 August] at the start of a 3-nation tour of Africa. This is the first visit to South Africa by a high-level Iranian official since the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

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Iran was among the main supporters of the African National Congress, led by Nelson Mandela, which led the struggle against the apartheid regime of then president F.W. de Klerk. As the newly elected president of South Africa, Iran was one of the first countries to be visited by President Nelson Mandela, signifying the importance he gave to the Islamic Republic.

The U.S., though it imposed an arms sanction against the former racist regime of South Africa in the 1970s, is known to have had wide economic support for such regime and does not now enjoy popularity in South Africa. For the sake of its economic interests, Washington manages to have its voice heard in South African affairs. Indeed, it does not seem likely that American influence in South Asia could block the growing pace of Tehran-Pretoria relations.

The fact is, that in the game of politics, "there are no friends but only interests." Each country's policies and decisions are guided by its national interests, and since South Africa would benefit from trading in the oil which it would store for Iran, South African officials have said that they would act independently in their foreign policy to the disappointment of the U.S.

U.S. pressure these days is not only fixed on South African-Iran relations. Washington has also asked Pretoria to downgrade its relations with Havana and pave the way for the entry of more American companies in South Africa.

The U.S. Energy Secretary is to pay a visit to South Africa soon. The results will be the harbinger of more U.S. official visits to Pretoria to review relations prior to the imposition of conditions on economic aid.

Obviously, the U.S. administration is aiming at two birds with one stone. Should relations between Pretoria and Tehran be downgraded, it shall have succeeded in hurting Iran's economic interests, on the one hand, while depriving President Mandela's promising and independent government of its economic gains, on the other.

Kobus Van Zyl, general director of South Africa's Central Energy Fund, has estimated $208 million in profits South Africa would derive yearly from the storage deal with Iran. Under the agreement, Iran would not be paying storage fees while being able to move into markets in South Africa and South America where it does not have a strong presence yet.

By cementing and broadening their relations, both countries could thwart U.S. plots while strengthening South-South cooperation.

Their relations are certainly moving in the right track and the visit of Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, could be a turning point in Tehran-Pretoria relations.

Larijani Claims U.S. 'Carried Out' Iraqi Defections

NC2708104595 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Aug 95 p 1

[Editorial by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani: "What is Happening in Iraq?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. The flight by the Iraqi defense minister (Husayn Kamil Hasan) to Jordan was carried out by the United States with careful preparation. The fact that Jordan and the Western media were prepared for it bears testimony to this.

An important question that arises is: What are the Americans after? The Western media constantly mentions the Clinton administration's interest in the toppling of Saddam. Is this propaganda in conformity with their actions?

2. If in fact Washington sought the toppling of Saddam, it should have been carried out in the form of coup d'etat as the Iraqi people loathe the Saddam regime and are therefore just as mistrustful of Kamil Hasan. The United States cannot count on a people's uprising with such a leader. A hypothetical coup d'etat cannot take place with the escape of its main pawns! If a coup had been planned in fact, the key pawns such as Kamil Hasan should have been in Baghdad actually directing it.

Anyone who has the slightest familiarity with the Saddam regime should know that he can eliminate tens of thousands of his country's officials in one day on mere suspicion of treachery. Thus, Kamil Hasan's escape means that the plan for a coup failed due to its disclosure rather than the beginning of the process of an overthrow!

3. In order to project an accurate picture of the incident, it is necessary to view the Clinton administration's situation. Clinton currently faces two political problems: First, his rivals in the Republican party who are constantly evaluating the results of his foreign policy. He has not been able to make any headway regarding the Baghdad government, despite promises of toppling it right from the outset. The second factor is the pressure from the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf, especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. These countries accepted the brunt of the heavy financial burden and the presence, in fact the direct military interference, of the United States in their country, which were accompanied by promises of toppling Saddam. Now they are now utterly amazed

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to see that Washington is seeking to change their own political systems!

Thus it can easily be supposed that the Clinton administration is in general seeking to project the impression of toppling Saddam rather than actually doing so. This is for the benefit of its domestic opponents as well as to silence the Arab rulers of the region.

4. The situation in fact is:

First, the U.S. Government is not capable of toppling Saddam's government even if we were to assume that it wanted to do so. It is only the Iraqi people who are and who should be the ones to make any decisions. The U.S. Government is in great awe of the Muslim Iraqi people.

Second, the flight by the aforementioned pawns of the Baghdad regime should be considered a dangerous warning for Saddam. In any case, the United States was able to influence the person closest to the regime. There is no doubt that this has its roots in Saddam's unpopularity and the blatant blunders he has made over the past two decades. He has, in practice, destroyed Iraq's sovereignty and independence. Whether this danger has been perceived in Baghdad or not, requires further discussion but more current data is necessary for a definite opinion.

Third, the United States is not waiting for any major upheaval in the region even though it conveys such an impression. What the United States wants is to create a special scenario so that it can obtain a major advantage.

Jannati Comments on U.S. 'Mischievousness'

LD2508121295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This week's Tehran Friday prayers were held as usual, and at the same time as other Friday prayers across the country, with the participation of the devotees of God.

In the first sermon of the prayers, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, the temporary Friday prayers leader of Tehran, congratulated the esteemed leader and the iranian people on the occasion of Government Week. He also praised the lofty place of the martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar.

Jannati praised the cabinet for its services, in particular the reconstruction of the war-damaged areas, which was carried out despite the great material damage of the imposed war and despite U.S. plots and pressure against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: the provision of services by the Government at this particular time is very valuable, and I thank the president and the cabinet on behalf of the people.

The Friday prayers leader expressed gratitude for the recent victory of our country's wrestlers, and stressed the need to uphold Islamic values in competitions.

Ayatollah Jannati referred to U.S. mischievousness and said that, through unfounded pretexts — including recent issues concerning Iraq — Washington intends to increase its presence in the region. People must be more alert than ever to the American plots, he added.

KEYHAN Confirms Germany Expels 2 Diplomats

NC2608142495 Paris AFP in English 1406 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 26 (AFP) — A newspaper here confirmed on Saturday [26 August] the expulsion of two Iranian diplomats by Germany, reported earlier by an Iranian opposition group.

Without giving any sources, KEYHAN daily said Germany had ordered the diplomats to "leave the country in a suspicious and insulting move."

"This surprising move will definitely have a negative impact on relations between the two countries," it warned.

The daily, close to anti-Western, Islamic hardliners, urged the Foreign Ministry to "respond firmly with a similar measure to defend the dignity of the Islamic Republic.

"An appropriate and similar response to Germany's irresponsible move will make other countries understand we mean business," it said.

Iran's main armed opposition group, the People's Mojahedin [Mojahedin-e Khalq], said Friday that Germany had expelled the third secretary of the Iranian mission in Bonn, 'Ali Osouli, and a member of the Iranian consulate in Frankfurt, Seyyed Jalal 'Abbasi, for "violating international diplomatic conventions."

The German Foreign Ministry has refused to comment on the issue, while the Iranian Embassy in Bonn has denied the report.

The Mojahedin did not give the date of the expulsions, but KEYHAN daily said it took place "several days" after the brief detention in Paris of two Iranian diplomats on August 17.

The Iranians were stopped for questioning shortly after a bomb attack near the Arc de Triomphe.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has not commented on the affair.

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German Diplomats Expelled 'in Retaliation'

NC2708060795 Paris AFP in English 0547 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 27 (AFP) — Iran has ordered the expulsion of two German diplomats for engaging in activities "contrary to their diplomatic status," a newspaper reported here Sunday [27 August]. The move was taken in "retaliation" for the expulsion of two Iranian diplomats in Bonn, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI daily said.

Matthias Gutzeit and Geog Stollenwerk, the head of the visa section and an employee of the German consulate respectively, will have two weeks to leave the country, the paper said.

Contacted by AFP, the German Embassy in Iran refused to comment on the expulsions which have not been reported by Iran's official media.

The hardline daily KEYHAN said Saturday that two members of the Iranian Embassy in Bonn had been expelled and called for a similar response from Iran.

UN Allegations of Human Rights Violations Rejected

LD2608203395 Tehran IRNA in English 2003 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 26, (IRNA) — The United Nations Human Rights Commission from force of habit has again made allegations against Islamic Iran of violating human rights.

According to news reports, a sub-committee of the U.N. Human Rights Commission issued a resolution this weekend expressing "deep concern" over what it termed "extensive cases of human rights violations by the Islamic Republic of Iran."

For Iran it did not come as a surprise in view of the forces which dominate the world body and the impact which the model of the Islamic Republic is having on world societies.

Every now and then, the U.N. Human Rights Commission comes with a stereo-typed accusation of Iran's disregard for human rights, thereby betraying that persons making up the commission are more inclined to see the situation in Iran through Zionist and anti-revolutionary eyes rather than analyze the bare facts themselves.

Interestingly the fresh allegations are timed with the frustration of Washington and Tel Aviv in their anti-Iran plots in the political and economic arenas.

The commission listed accusations ranging from arbitrary and "summary executions and torture" to "unexplained disappearances and disregard for freedom of expression and freedom of religion."

The sub-committee of the UN Human Rights Commission issued the resolution at a time when the United States has failed to stop an important Iranian oil deal with South Africa and the signing of an off-shore oil development project with Total of France.

One Injured by Grenade Explosion at Ahvaz Airport

LD2708190995 Tehran IRNA in English 1848 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), Aug. 27, IRNA — A hand grenade exploded in a room in the administrative section of Ahvaz Airport at 07:00 hours local time (02:30 GMT) today injuring one person in the leg, according to an informed source. The injured person was immediately rushed to the Imam Khomeyni hospital for treatment.

Hamid Zare'i, deputy manager of Ahvaz Airport, stated that the explosion inflicted very minimum damage. He went on to say that at the time of the blast 200 passengers destined for Tehran were in the waiting lobby located immediately below the floor where the detonation occured.

The terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq outfit (MKO) had previously claimed responsibility for most of the explosions. Both the security and law enforcement forces are investigating the case of the hand grenade detonation.

Rafsanjani Gives 'Government Week' Speech

LD2508222695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0953 GMT 25 Aug 95

[Speech by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the inauguration of an exhibition on the occasion of Government Week in Tehran on 25 August — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The great exhibition of the gains of the Islamic revolution was opened today in the permanent site of international exhibitions in Tehran in the presence of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. After inspecting some parts of this exhibition, the president in a speech briefly evaluated the record of government achievements in the First Development Plan of the country. We draw your attention to the text of the speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at those ceremonies. Good day:

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God and peace and greetings to the Prophet of God and his family.

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We wish to thank all the colleagues who are making it possible for the people to become aware of the capabilities and assets of the country and the gains of the revolution. They are preparing the means of victory for us in a very important battle against arrogance in which we are now engaged . .

I feel that at the moment there is a serious propaganda war between the revolution and the arrogance. They are making every effort to allege that the revolution does not possess the capability for the reconstruction and management of a modern society. The revolution wishes to say that the Islamic revolution possesses the best means for the correct administration of the society. This battle is a decisive and epoch-making battle. We will inform the public opinion of the realities within the context of this battle.

While thanking our media for all their efforts in presenting the gains of their revolution, I wish to stress that we must make greater efforts in this connection. The realities — and we truly do not wish to engage in misleading propaganda — but the realities should be presented to the world and to our people.

Before turning to the main topics of my speech, I wish to stress to those who want to criticize and who feel that their criticism would be useful towards the elimination of the difficulties and defects, that they should combine their criticism with due attention to services and realities, so that their criticism is regarded as fair and, consequently, their criticism will be effective. If their criticism is one-sided, it will be regarded as unjust and, as a result, the listeners will lose their susceptibility to accept them; unless they are our enemies.

They should bear in mind that sloganeering, exaggerating, and maximizing the weak points will be exactly what will add grist to the enemy's mill. The enemy who is confronting us in this contest and in this battle will choose its fifth column from among those individuals who unfairly ignore the achievements [of the revolution] and who unduly exaggerate the weaknesses. You can see examples of this in the attitude of Radio Israel. They read all our newspapers and magazines, and each day they find four or five minor points from the inside pages of our newspapers and ignore thousands of positive titles, articles, editorials, and viewpoints.

In our battle against our enemies, we have a good yardstick of their hostility and that is Radio Israel. One of its beneficial effects is that it allows our people to see what our enemies are looking for and how we should deal with issues.

With this introduction, I now enter my main discussion which deals with the achievement of the revolution on the occasion of the Government Week. This is because I see the government as only a part of the revolution, and thus not all the achievements belong to the government. Before everything else, we have the leadership, that is our beloved Imam in the past and his eminence the leader today. [passage omitted]

The achievements have indeed been huge and one cannot really display all the works that have been carried out in a 1.6 million square km workshop within an area measuring only 30,000 meters. [passage omitted]

I want to say that the Iran of today is really one of the countries of the world that is firmly on course for developments as it enjoys solid infrastructure and foundation in all aspects of life. I do not claim that there are no faults and shortcomings. These certainly exist, and if we had started our tasks with more experience and know-how, we would have been able to accomplish even more.

However, here we only want to refer to what has been accomplished. I will be mentioning each area very briefly and in passing. During the Government Week, there will be naturally other occasions for every official to explain the achievements in his own particular area.

I have made no notes and it is difficult to see the country's affairs all at once. I thought I could go round the cabinet table in my mind and point to each section of our work and to review the situation regarding the results of the first plan and the situation in the second plan.

One of the most important issues — and I am going round the table to help my memory — is the post war reconstruction. I do not know how much this has been reflected in the exhibition. It would be good if it had. We have achieved something like a miracle in reconstruction. We have reconstructed five provinces that were nearly destroyed. We have rebuilt 5,000 villages that were totally destroyed, and not in the poor shape that they were in, but at an acceptable modern level. Cities such as Abadan, Khoramshahr, Bostan, Ghasr-e Shirin, Mehran, Musiyan, and Dehloran — that were totally destroyed — are all acceptable towns with parks, bridges, ports, factories, and refineries. Thank God, the reconstruction is nearing its end. [passage omitted]

The Oil Ministry. During the last five years, we have gained a great deal in the sectors of oil, gas, and petrochemical industries.

Right now, more than 200 towns are connected to the gas network and you all know how important that is.

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The factories that are connected now to the gas network can also appreciate the benefits. Moreover, our power stations would have been almost totally unmanageable without gas. That is to say, we would have had to use almost all our oil and other fuels to keep the power stations running, and nothing would have been left for anything else, especially as the electricity sector is still growing.

We are now preparing ourselves for the export of gas. However, we need major investments in the second development plan, especially on our off-shore resources. We have huge resources in the Persian Gulf, some of which we share with our southern neighbors and we have to quickly exploit them so that our rights are properly safeguarded. This is an expensive task, which we are dealing with.

Petrochemical industries form one of the most important economic foundations for our country. It is also perhaps the best area where Iran can compete in international markets. This is because we possess the required raw material, and as you know, we own the second largest natural gas resources in the world and our resources discovered so far will last for about 200 to 300 years if we maintain the present level of consumption. [passage omitted]

We have a unique status in petrochemical industries, as we have the raw material and the necessary technology and workforce. No other country has all these together. Japan has the technology, but lack the raw material. Arabia has the raw material, but lack the workforce.

We can be the leader in this field. There is, moreover, no limit to how far we can go. If we move things even ten times faster than at present — which is something that we are perfectly capable of — we can still manage things properly.

In the oil industry as a whole, some important tasks have been accomplished. As you know, Iran used to export 6 million barrels of oil per day. But how did they do it? That is a different matter altogether. They used to destroy the wells as they exploited them merely by using the earth's natural pressure and did not inject gas into them. That led to the reduction of the useful life a well from say 100 years to between 50 to 60 years. This process wasted a great deal of our oil reserves.

We have, during the last five years, invested a great deal of money on the technology of injecting gas into oil wells. We are in this way increasing the life of our wells and this will benefit the country hugely.

Our own indigenous workforce is now doing everything in the oil industry. That is to say the building of refineries, exploitation, manufacture of pipelines and valves, etc. Almost all these tasks were in the past carried out by foreign experts only.

Today, we are able to compete with major oil companies in the world's major oil centers. The only thing we are slightly short of is capital, which we must find from somewhere. You saw that the moment we went to Kuwait to put out the blazing oil wells, the fees dropped drastically. That is so say, the Americans and the Canadians, for instance, had to sharply reduce their prices the moment Iran began competing with them. Better still, we did much better than they did, even though we were impeded by the strong American presence in Kuwait.

Mines and metal have opened a new era in your country. We were only capable of producing 1 million tonnes of steel prior to the commencement of the [first five-year development] plan and not at very high standards. Today we produce 5 million tonnes of steel and process them into very thin sheets. We have entered the world markets. Our steel products are of a high quality, now we can even compete with those countries from which we learned the industry. We do not have sufficient steel to export. If we had been able to produce 10 to 100 million tonnes of steel, we would have been able to sell them in the international market due to the top quality of our product. [passage omitted]

Aluminum, which is a very modern industry in our country, meets the requirements of our country. We did not have material in the country in the past and we used to import powder. We are now in the process of opening a huge mine in Jajar [as heard]. Aluminum also will turn into an independent industry. We are building one of the most important factories in the region in Bandar-e Abbas and its products will, God willing, come to the market next year.

Copper: We had a factory that was not operational and as a difficult task, the Americans left it to us and went. It took some time for us to succeed. Today we are successful. We have discovered new copper mines. Iran is located on the copper belt and we are one of the richest countries in the world in terms of our copper mines. You will see that new copper mines even better than Sarchashmah will be discovered in places such as Azerbaijan [Province] and other parts of our country.

Mines were almost a forgotten issue in Iran. Today stone mines are one of the important resources of our country, both from the standpoint of providing employment and becoming a source for export which brings foreign currency into the country. They also ensure the requirements of the country. The same applies to other kind of mines. We have made many mines ready for opera-

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tion and you can see their [products] in this exhibition. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, foreigners were saying that you should not bother with your mines as your country is [rich] in oil. We have broken the spell by our own hands and with our own forces in order not to be dependent on them. We want to own mines and we have the resources for them. I can see that the revenue from our mines will soon compete with our revenue from oil. With some patience you will see this happening in Iran. [passage omitted]

You all know that in the field of building material Iran now has everything. If we close the country's door today, Iran will not be short of anything for construction of dams or bridges or other things. The most important thing that happened in the first plan was providing sufficient building material and manpower, machinery, and technology for construction. I saw many good projects on my tour today in the sector for the Ministry of Housing. We have prepared these and we have a suitable policy. Our weakness used to be a lack of funds. Building material, land, water, and electricity are available and there is also the demand. So why are houses not being built? Because those who need homes do not have the funds. The deprived classes and the youth who do not have jobs need credit. The adopted policy is to get rid of this weak point and to mass produce small units through reliance on public funds and share documents. I hope that in the second plan you will be able to solve the housing issue, which is one of our problems. Of course this is not right, but there are a lot of empty houses in the country. The problem is because a large number of people have [houses] but do not rent and some people do not have houses. Maybe there is something wrong with the rent laws that [encourages] them not to rent. If we build 1 million houses — 75 percent or nearly 80 percent of our people have homes and 10 percent are tenant farmers, leaving about 15 percent of people without a property. If we meet this quota, housing will no longer be an acute problem and it will have a natural state. This will happen in the second plan, God willing. The basis is there.

Agriculture. You know that we had a 6 percent growth in agriculture during the first five-year development plan. It was an important achievement in agriculture. The problem with agriculture was that subsides were provided for agricultural products and had the backing of the government. They were cheap and the farmers were not that willing to produce them. No one was making any new investment in agriculture and research was not considered in this sector. Private sectors were involved in agriculture, but not very active. They only wanted to protect their lands and were not showing more interest than that.

Due to our correct policy in pricing agricultural products, today wherever there is land and water, people get involved in agriculture. Research into spheres of agriculture has developed. Propagation has become more serious. People have learned. For example, we harvest 5 tonnes from a land that we used to harvest 2 tonnes. [passage omitted] Agriculture has truly developed and most of the villages are flourishing. I am myself the son of a farmer. I used to be a farmer when I was young. I have a good knowledge of it. I know the land and the well. I know that today the farmers are working with great enthusiasm and this is very important for our country. [passage omitted]

The industries. You must have felt the situation. You visit the exhibitions and go to markets. You have seen in the country how extensive industry has developed. I mentioned some example of the developments in industry when I referred to the issue of metals such as copper, steel, and aluminum.

It has been one of our basic policies to make ourself free from imports and become independent. There were two directions and we have passed through them together. Some of the world countries take the direction of export and work to improve their export. They export goods to gain foreign currency and improve their industry. Some of the other countries take the direction of replacement [jahgozeni]. That is, they produce what they need internally instead of importing them. What we did, we saw both develop together. In the first five-year development plan our policy was to work to improve both export and replacement. We have been more successful in our replacement program and are also successful in exporting goods. This applies both to our agricultural and trade and commerce sectors.

Our exports reached 4.5 billion [unit of measure not given] last year from around 1 billion and the growth will continue. This is a very good outcome and no one can undermine it.

The replacement is much higher. What we were importing then and are not importing today should also be considered as a contribution to exports. Because instead of paying foreign currency and importing goods, we now produce goods at home. Every day, there is one or several cases in which we stop importing goods that we were importing up until now. [passage omitted]

We may have produced goods inside the country in the past five years to replace imports worth more than $20 billion. I do not have an exact figure, but I guess it will be over $20 billion. [passage omitted]

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In addition, manpower was very costly. They were charging us a very high price when foreign experts were coming to Iran to work. For example, the refinery in Hurmozgan that we are building; we called for tenders. The lowest offered price was $400 million they wanted only for its installation. The Iranians themselves installed it and are about to finish it. It did not cost even $50 million. There are many examples of replacement programs that have taken place in the spheres of industry and science. [passage omitted]

Ministry of Labor. We had 15-16 percent unemployment and have brought it down to 11 percent. If the refugees who are in our country were not here, we would not have had any unemployment in spite of the fact that our population has grown at a very fast rate in the past few years.

Training. Professional training has never been taken seriously, but now you will find a professional training center in every city and province, providing free training for the people. You have no idea how effective this is in raising productivity. [passage omitted] One of the things we are proud of is the training of our labor force since this both improves workers' lives and raises the quality of work.

Workers' wages are, on the whole, better than those of white- collar workers today. A worker earns more than a white-collar worker today; although, the worker has a lower educational qualification.

Transport. When we started the country's transport system was in a state of paralysis. At the start of each academic year on 23 September, we were concerned about children starting school and wondered how they would get there. We used to mobilize the whole country so that the first few days could pass smoothly. The same applied to the New Year period. We would mobilize all the country because people wanted to travel.

There were times when several ships would enter the ports at the same time and we had to mobilize the Army, the [Islamic Revolutionary] Guards Corps, as well as borrow people's trucks in order to cope. But even so, the goods could not be unloaded and transported in time and sometimes there was a delay of several weeks or months. I believe we used to pay $200 to $300 million in moorage fees — a high price. Now our ports have been equipped and the ships are not delayed anymore; we no longer pay moorage fees, but unload the cargo faster and even get a prize for doing so. [passage omitted] We do not have any transport problems now, in spite of the fact that we have 1.5 million tonnes of goods in transit — goods crossing our country — mostly with our own transport.

Railways. Our railways are active as far as passengers and goods are concerned. [passage omitted] Roads and highways are being constructed rapidly. Thanks to God, we do not have any problems in the transport sector. You can see that our civil aviation is among the world's best in spite of years of boycotts against us. [passage omitted] Inside the country, where we pay out so much in subsidies, we have built so many new airports — most of the cities now have airports that people can use.

Sea transport is also good.

All this is what has taken place if we compare the years preceding and following the plan.

The cooperative sector used to be something of a slogan, but today the cooperatives have really become active. They realized that they had to work as economic units. They took less in subsidies from the government and they are trying to turn into effective units in the country's economy. The Constitution has also stressed this. [passage omitted]

As you can see the country's security has changed much. We are a country with enemies and you can see much trouble around us. Look at Iraq, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Pakistan's Baluchestan, or look at the south where the enemy has come to anchor next to our home. There is not one place at rest. The security that the country enjoys today is truly remarkable. It is incredible that we have huge investments for dam construction and other sensitive projects near border areas. There are advanced power plants in Sistan va Baluchestan and great projects in Zabol, near Afghanistan and Birjand. They are all near the borders. In Hormozgan there is a refinery and an aluminum plant. Huge things in the border regions. This security is remarkable.

Smuggling was one of our problems and we insist on eliminating smuggling — the evil practice that stands against our correct economic advance. Drugs are a calamity that can destroy a powerful country such as America. It is bringing them down to their knees. Although the calamity continues to exist in the country, we have brought it under control. We are not like America. Afghanistan and Pakistan, sources of drug production, are next to us and we are on the route. America is at the other end of the world, but everything goes through Iran. Nevertheless, we have been able, through great effort, to bring the evil drug situation under control. Thank God. We have created an acceptable security in this domain.

On defense affairs you should be extraordinarily assured. During the war, we imported everything. It was a source of sadness at the battle field — I was in charge

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then — that we had to destroy so many dollars. Everything we had: communication equipment, ammunition, military equipment, aircraft, artillery guns, mortars, rockets, radar, observation equipment, everything was paid for in dollars and on the black market. These are all in Iran now. Of course combat aircraft is a different case and we also build combat aircraft. [sentence as heard] It is not the same, but we have kept our aircraft. That kind of power. Only the Air Force wanted $1 billion every year for maintenance. Today we are only allocating $500-600 million for defense: the equipment and maintenance.

An incredible thing has happened in defense so that we are making everything from rockets to the smallest military equipment. We are also exporters and could export to countries which we wish. You should know that we are one of the main centers for construction of defense equipment. Of course we cannot advertise much in this sector and we do not wish to advertise because it is a defense sphere, but we are getting on with the job.

Revenues and banking issues. There has been growth in the revenues every year and it has been a sound growth. We must reach a point where the revenues earned from taxes will cover the cost of the country's administration. Despite the hue and cry that has been carried out against our banks, the people have trust in them. They have an annual desirable growth in attracting cash and in lending money to people. The banks have turned into a very good facility. Today the majority of the country's industries have been supported by these banks. Unfortunately, they are also the victims of propaganda.

They absorb money and become involved in developing industries directly or indirectly through becoming a partner. I have noticed that the majority of the country's important industries I have visited are being built with a loan from the banks or with their participation. Banks even participate in major projects such as the metro that is being built in Tehran. Its largest share will be paid by the banks. To be honest, they work hard and they naturally face some problems too. It is natural and such issues happen. They should be more careful and not waste all their hard work just because of a scandal. They gave good support to the new currency policies. [passage omitted]

Concerning trade, we should say that the exhibition that we saw and the export and commercial sector are also developing with the efforts of these gentlemen.

We cannot speak too much about nuclear energy, but you should know that we now have a firm base in our country — I do not mean weapons, but peaceful use. We have trained good forces for medical purposes, for food preservation, control of insects, and God willing, in the future, for the purposes of building power stations and new energy — wind and solar energy. They have taken the preliminary steps towards these developments and have built the models. Thus the country has taken a step in infrastructure, God willing, in the second plan, the outcome of which will be witnessed by you.

In the field of sports and physical education, you can see the results for yourselves in world arenas. Our youth are demonstrating their abilities with the support they have received. With 1,370 new sport centers and gymnasiums to be built during the second plan, there will be a major development in sports. Alongside this we have also been attending to the environment. Of course, we are not yet so industrially developed to be too concerned about this, but we have prepared for protecting the environment.

We have paid a lot of attention to welfare and cultural issues. Iran is among the few countries in the world that has invested so much in cultural life. There was a time when we only had a few newspapers. Today, we have close to 600 newspapers and journals with circulations running into millions. After the revolution, it was thought that the cinema would disappear, but you saw that your artists won prizes in the Locarno [Film Festival] even though they do not really want to accept that Iran has progressed in these fields. Naturally, our cinema cannot compete with their cinema, with Hollywood's cinema. Neither can it compete with all that sex, violence, and excitement. We entered the field of cinema with a specific culture and we have had this much success with a culture that has just been born. So, we should really place a lot of importance on the cinema and we have.

The preservation of the spirit of the revolution and Islamic culture costs a lot. We have spent and are spending large sums on this. The Voice and Vision, in our country, is really one of the world's excellent centers and it is a healthy, useful organization that is concerned about people's culture, about technical development, and about trying to bring coverage to the whole country. Our country is mountainous and we cannot always provide coverage from Tehran or provincial cities; in many places we have to go there with the equipment and spend a lot of money in this respect. But we do have a media that has a lot of listeners everywhere in the world.

Fortunately, the presence of women has also been impressive in the social field; although, it was thought that they would become isolated after the revolution. I should mention something that I heard just today, in world news, and which I found very interesting. After a lot of comings and goings, international organizations have reached the conclusion that the most important way

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to save women from these difficulties is to encourage them to become educated — this is the most effective way. Well, the Islamic Republic of Iran chose to take up this path without the current publicity and without any pressure from the outside.

After the revolution, we simply told our women to go after their education and you can today see how many women are now attending schools and universities. There are even more women attending university in Iran than anywhere in the world. I have not compared statistics, of course, but am deducing this from what I know in general. A large percentage — approximately 40 percent — of our teachers now are women and 35 percent of our students are women. Girls make up 48 percent of our school children. This is in spite of the fact that, in the past, some people in our country, especially the Sunnis, were not prepared to send their girls to school and this lowered the statistics, but now they have slowly started to do as others do.

We have thus placed women along a good path; the revolution owes a great debt to women and just as I said, I read that the World Bank has announced that it is prepared to financially assist those countries that are prepared to provide women with opportunities to become educated. They have reached this point that is one of the things we are already proud of.

I would like to mention a few other points. Fortunately, just as I mentioned earlier, we do not want to give all the credit to the cabinet. The Majles has given us good support by ratifying our programs and decisions. The deputies backed us. As to the judiciary, firstly, it has developed very well with the help of the government — many judges have been trained and employed; we have provided them with more facilities in their workplace; we have improved their education and training. They too have given their support to the government. The three powers, the armed forces, and all of us, under the supervision of the great leader of the revolution, endeavored to achieve this outcome that I have presented to you in outline form and even then with some omissions, since, after all, it is not possible to remember everything all the time.

What we expect from our media, which has been very helpful so far, is to help even more by telling the world about Iran's successes and the successes of the revolution. If the world really knew that Iran had developed in this way since the revolution, this would be the best publicity for the revolution. Today, unfortunately, thousands of sharp tongues are wagging against us, ignoring our achievements, and magnifying our shortcomings. Leading the move against us is America that has now turned its verbal hostility into practical actions against us. But, thank God their efforts have backfired everywhere. The latest country they tried to tempt into breaking ties with us was South Africa, but there too, they met with defeat.

This is the position of our country's foreign policy. In our foreign policy, this is our most difficult arena; our enemies are chiefly outside the country after all. But when we see that America goes to Japan in order to incite Japan against us and then experiences defeat, when we see that it met with defeat in Russia, in Europe and in Africa, this shows that our foreign policy has been successful. In spite of all the problems we are facing across the world, when our foreign policy is creating a climate that is preventing our powerful enemy America from confronting us in such a way, and causing her to be defeated in these arenas, in these fronts, then we have to be proud of this.

I must thank my colleagues in the government, the officials, and the employees of the state without whom we could not have carried out our responsibilities. And if we have achieved anything, we share this achievement with our colleagues and all those who are serving. I thank them all. In spite of this new and on the whole, inflated, debate on the issue of corruption which is being raised, these [bank employees] are among the most honest employees of the state. Most of these managers sprang from humble backgrounds; they were revolutionaries, they have been imprisoned, they served on the war fronts. It is not easy to find this breed of men elsewhere since they were the products of our revolution and the conditions that made that revolution.

It is a shame to discredit this great asset, which has taken a long time to amass, with the appearance of some signs of corruption. Corruption has existed before, in the households of the prophets — for instance, in the household of the holy Noah; the holy Lut; in the household of our imams, of Imam Hasan Askari, and in those of others. There have always been corrupt individuals in history whom we know about. So, if we have them in history, we are also likely to see them here and there, in an office, in a bank, among employees, but this should not cause us to discredit the whole correct and good situation in the country. Of course, corrupt individuals have to be exposed, but we should speak in a manner that does not harm other people's rights. We should be careful ourselves and not allow a corrupt person to emerge from our own midst and undo the work of others. These things may happen anywhere; we need to guard against them.

Well, we have made you tired and have not yet managed to see all the pavilions. We did see some of them, but do not want to disturb people right now. We hope to return

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to have a look later. God's peace and benedictions be upon you.

Nepal

Riot Police Use Tear Gas on UPF Activists

BK2308143895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1432 GMT 23 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, Aug 23 (AFP) — Riot police Wednesday [23 August] fired tear gas here to disperse a protest by several hundred activists of the extreme left United People's Front (UPF), a police source said.

"None of the UPF supporters was injured or arrested, apparently to avoid serious clashes between them and the riot police," the police source said.

He said the activists had been planning to erase pro-government slogans on the wall of the state-run Nepal Electricity Authority and replace them with slogans against the government and monarchy.

"Nearly 8,000 bystanders gathered at the site to watch the melee between the riot police and the UPF activists," witnesses said.

The UPF activists shouted slogans like "Down with the NCP-UML (ruling Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist) imperialists and its agents," and "Stop state terrorism and use of hooligans to supress UPF activists."

UPF chairman Babu Ram Bhattarai said the Front had "invited several journalists and the leaders of different opposition parties to watch the police repression while we will try to write anti-king and anti-NCP-UML slogans."

"The UPF wanted to inscribe slogans like, 'Down with the monarchy and the NCP-UML collaboration,' 'The forthcoming mid-term election is a conspiracy and a deceptive move of the NCP-UML,' and others," Bhattarai said.

The police had cordoned off the area, then when "the number of onlookers began to increase, the police started to fire tear gas shells apparently to disperse them," a witness said.

King Birendra on June 13 disbanded parliament and announced mid- term polls for November 23 at the request of Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari.

Adhikari said opposition parties had forced him to take this action by hampering the normal functioning of his minority communist government.

Despite strong protests from opposition parties and their claim they could form a majority coalition government, the house was disbanded.

Main Opposition Party Holds Nationwide Protests

BK2408150595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1457 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Aug 24 (AFP) — The main opposition Nepali Congress (NC) and its student wing the Nepal Students' Union (NSU) held a series of anti-government demonstrations across the country Thursday [24 August], the party said.

"The NC today organized demonstrations and held public rallies in the 75 districts of the country against the ruling Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) caretaker government," Ram Prasad Sharma, an NC party activist said.

"Today's nationwide demonstrations and public meetings were held as per the announcement made by NC President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai to remove the communist government from office," he said.

"On the one hand, the communist government has done nothing to control the escalating market prices and curb administrative corruption while on the other, it has failed to get the World Bank's support to finance a hydro-electric power project, thereby plunging the country into darkness," Sharma claimed.

Nearly 10,000 NC supporters and NSU students demonstrated in Kathmandu and later gathered to hear speeches by NC leaders denouncing the caretaker government and attacking mid-term polls.

Similar demonstrations were also held in the two cities of the Kathmandu valley — Lalitpur and Bhakatpur — Thursday.

An NC leader said his party would continue to demonstrate against the caretaker communist government until it resigned from office.

King Birendra on June 13 disbanded parliament and announced mid-term polls for November 23 at the request of Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari.

Adhikari said opposition parties had forced him to take this action by hampering the normal functioning of his government.

Despite strong protests from opposition parties against the move and their claim of being able to form a majority government, the house was disbanded.

The king also asked Adhikari to head a caretaker government and hold the elections fairly and peacefully.

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Police Disperse Peasant, Student Demonstration

BK2608094195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Aug 26 (AFP) — Police used batons to disperse a demonstration by more than 30,000 peasants and students in the southwestern district of Chitaun, a Nepali Congress party (NC) source said in Kathmandu Saturday [26 August].

The protestors, who were demanding the government supply them with fertilizers needed to plant paddy, blocked traffic from the capital to Chitaun town, 180 kilometres (112 miles) southwest of here, on Thursday and Friday, the opposition party source said.

The police used baton charges to break the blockade resulting in injuries to "several peasants and students," the source said.

Also Saturday, in a press release, the NC said a group of 25 men, allegedly from the ruling Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist, disrupted a function organized to inaugurate the office building of the Women's Environmental Association of Kumroj in Chitaun district on Friday.

"As soon as the function began under the chairmanship of NC leader Netra Maya Thapaliya, the communist party activists armed with lethal weapons, including bicycle chains and Gurkha knives (Khukris) attacked and disrupted the meeting," it said.

"The situation in Chitaun district is tense because of the indiscriminate baton charge by police," the release said.

There has so far been no official reaction to the reports.

Pakistan

Officials Meet To Discuss U.S. Ties, Other Issues

BK2808110895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 28 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rawalpindi (PPI) — The Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) met here at the Joint Staff Headquarters under the presidentship of Chairman JCSC Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroz Khan.

The meeting which was attended by the three services chiefs and other senior civil and military officials exchanged views on matters pertaining to professional interests.

Informed sources told that the situation presently prevailing in the Indian occupied Kashmir with particular reference to India's continuing policy of repression in the Valley and mass exodus of refugees in Azad Jammu and Kashmir came under intensive discussion.

The sources said that the meeting expressed serious concern over the increasing violations of the Line of Control (LoC) and killing of the innocent civilians in various sectors of Azad Kashmir as a result of indiscriminate firing by Indian troops.

"The JCSC vowed to give a befitting reply to the enemy in future if it does not refrain from hostile actions along the LoC," the sources said.

The sources said that the JCSC also expressed satisfaction over 100 percent results derived from the recently conducted Pak-US joint commando exercise.

Reviewing the arrangements being made for the forthcoming Pak-US joint infantry exercises to be held in Pakistan sometime during September, the Committee observed that such exercises always proved to be extremely useful in enhancing the professional skill of the troops of both the host and guest countries and provide them an opportunity to share experiences with each other.

The sources said that the meeting was of the strong opinion that the requests received from the other countries for joint exercise with armed forces of Pakistan should be considered seriously.

The sources recalled that it was because of excellent record set by Pakistan army as peacekeepers in various parts of the world under the UN umbrella that a large number of countries have shown interest to carry out joint exercises with the three services of Pakistan.

Responding to a question, the sources pointed out that the meeting reviewed in detail the outcome of Chief of Army Staff, General Abdul Waheed's recent visits to France and Germany and expressed satisfaction over Army Chief's fruitful talks with the military top brass of the two countries.

The sources replied in affirmative when asked that if the Committee also exchanged views on matters relating to current state of Pak-US relations.

The sources said that the latest developments on the Pressler issue with reference to Senator Hank Brown's Amendment seeking to ease sanctions against Pakistan also figured at the meeting. They said that the committee reviewed the efforts being made by the US administration for the release of equipment that Pakistan had contracted the before October 1990 and expressed happiness over the growing realisation in the United States on just and genuine stand of Pakistan on the whole issue.

The proposed Brown Amendment will authorise the Clinton administration to release approximately 368

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million dollars worth military equipment purchased by Pakistan before the imposition of Pressler sanctions.

Out of total 368 million dollars purchase, Pakistan Army's equipment is worth 77.4 million dollars, Pakistan Navy 191.8 million dollars, and Pakistan Air Force 98.8 million dollars.

It may be recalled that the two US Senators Hank Brown, the author of Pakistan-related amendment and Arlen Specter are already in town for talks with Pakistani leadership on status of Pak-US relations, the Pressler issue, the Brown Amendment, Kashmir issue and nuclear non-proliferation.

The sources pointed out that the JCSC also reviewed the internal security situation besides discussing the requirements of the three services in terms of weapons and equipment.

China Said Invited To Participate in Power Project

BK2208084995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 22 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Water and Power Development Authority [WAPDA] has invited China to participate in the construction of the Ghazi Barotha [power] project. The offer was made during a meeting between Wang Shanzhong, the visiting Chinese vice minister of electric power, and the chairman of WAPDA in Lahore. The Chinese vice minister, who is leading a delegation to Pakistan, discussed the proposed schemes of power generation and distribution in Pakistan.

Indian Allegations on Kashmir Hostages Denied

BK2508153595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi has described as mischievous, misleading, and baseless a report published in a section of the Indian press today in which it has been alleged that Pakistani politician Maulana Fazlur Rahman has ordered the Al-Faran organization to kill the foreign hostages in occupied Kashmir. In a press release, the High Commission said that Maulana Fazlur Rahman has nothing to do with this organization. It said this disinformation campaign has been launched by the Indian media to malign Pakistan. The High Commission recalled that Pakistan has appealed to the abductors at the highest political level to release the hostages immediately.

Official Views Indian 'Misadventure' in Kashmir

BK2708141695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the Kashmir committee of parliament, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, has called for convening an emergency meeting of the Organization of [the] Islamic Conference to consider the alarming situation in occupied Kashmir and Bosnia. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said the situation in occupied Kashmir and Bosnia has reached its climax and demands unity of the entire ummah [Islamic community]. The whole ummah, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, said must be ready to cope with any emergency situation that may result in the wake of Indian and Serb aggression against the just struggle of Muslims in occupied Kashmir and Bosnia.

Referring to the situation in occupied Kashmir, he said the Indian Government, after failure of its attempts to crush the indigenous struggle of Kashmiri freedom fighters, has only one card in its hand and that, he said, is committing a misadventure against Pakistan. The chairman of Kashmir committee said the ruling Congress party of India has suffered a series of defeats in provincial assembly elections and is now facing a split in the party. In these circumstances, he said, the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, may opt for a misadventure to divert attention of the Indian people from national issues and consolidate his deteriorating position.

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan condemned the Indian plan to hold elections in Leh district of Ladakh and said it is a conspiracy to ignite communal riots as the Buddhists are in majority in that district. He said Kargil district of Ladakh has a majority of Muslims and holding the so-called elections only in one area is evident that the Indian rulers want to create a division in Jammu and Kashmir.

A mammoth meeting held at Jama Masjid resolved to observe total strikes all over the Kashmir valley tomorrow against desecration of shrines and mosques, reports Ghulam Nabi Khayal, special correspondent from Srinagar:

[Begin Khayal recording] Protest rallies being held across Kashmir valley have warned Indian authorities to desist from continued hurting of sentiments of Muslims and stop killing and torturing of innocent citizens. A mammoth meeting held at Jama Masjid resolved to observe a total strike all over the valley on 28th of August against desecration of shrines and mosques. Speaking on the occasion the Hurriyat Conference chairman, Mir Waiz Omar Farooq, accused New Delhi

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of also hatching a conspiracy to divide the Jammu and Kashmir state. The Power Department Employees Union has also decided to go on strike on 30th of August as a mark of protest against what it called cold-blooded murder of two young engineers, Ghulam Nabi Lone and Shakil Salman, a few days ago and brutal torture of another Indian engineer, Ghulam Kader Bhatt, by the Indian soldiers. Meanwhile, eyewitnesses have alleged that Army high ups stage-managed surrendering of 46 fighters in Patan in North Kashmir yesterday. They said the fighters shown as having surrendered were in fact fighters under detention brought to enact this drama of laying down their arms.

Ghulam Nabi Khayal for PTV news, Srinagar. [end recording]

Gunman Kills Employee of U.S. Narcotics Agency

BK2708091695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0847 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Aug 27 (AFP) — A gunman on Sunday [28 August] shot dead a retired Pakistani army officer working at the U.S. Consulate in Karachi for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, officials said.

Mohammad Shahnawaz, 45, a former major, was shot at point-blank range as he waited at a bus stop to go to the consulate. A senior official said Shahnawaz was killed instantly and that the attacker escaped.

A spokesman for the U.S. Consulate said the identity and motive of the assailant were not known.

But police said the murder could be linked to the drug mafia, which the authorities say is involved in communal violence that has left more than 1,300 dead in Karachi this year.

In March, two American consulate staff were killed and a third wounded in an ambush. The attackers have never been caught.

Altaf Group Agrees To Discuss 'Karachi Problem'

BK2608084795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Altaf Group is to participate in talks with the government team on Karachi on 29 August. The Altaf Group negotiating team met in Karachi yesterday under the chairmanship of its principal negotiator, Ajmal Dehlvi, and made this decision. The government team had announced the holding of talks in Karachi on 29 August.

Sheikh Rafique Ahmed, general secretary of the Pakistan People's Party, said that the government attaches great importance to the dialogue with the Altaf Group to restore permanent peace in Karachi. Addressing a news conference in Lahore last evening, he pointed out that the present government is trying to resolve the Karachi problem through political means. The government, he said, has also made great headway toward eliminating terrorism.

Daily Claims Widespread Muhajir Support for MQM

95AS0468C Karachi AMN in Urdu 11 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Demonstration of Muhajir Unity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] People all over the country as well as political and religious leaders welcomed the decision of the leader of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] to postpone the observance of 10 July as a day of mourning and called it a wise step. Altaf Hussain decided not to observe 10 July as a day of mourning in order to demonstrate good will and ensure the success of the negotiations. Following the arrest of former MQM counsellor, Aslam Sabzewari, and his brutal killing while in custody, it was decided to observe 10 July as a day of mourning. In answer to MQM's appeal, business was shut down on 9 July and the people stayed home. Earlier, businesses were closed on Friday [7 July] and Saturday in connection with the protest movement.

Altaf Hussain has been protesting against the brutality of the police and rangers and asking the authorities to end their cruel acts against the Muhajirs as well as to solve problems through negotiation. In the recent past he has brought MQM's legitimate complaints to the attention of the government and suspended his protest movement for a time. But instead of reciprocating this positive act, the government has widened its violence and oppression under the mistaken impression that it can end the popularity of MQM and Altaf Hussain by using provincial force.

The authorities have repeatedly said that "a handful of terrorists" were holding the people of Karachi hostage but the success of the protest movement has shown that the authorities' claim is false. The whole world saw the people act on Altaf Hussain's appeals. The cruel and oppressive authorities then sought to end the protest movement by preventing MQM members from keeping in touch with each other and with this aim in view, shut down evening Urdu newspapers and banned the use of thousands of mobile phones and pagers in Karachi and Hyderabad. But on the days of the protest movement, businesses still closed down and a total strike was observed. People stayed in their houses and the world realized that the people sincerely support Altaf Hussain and MQM.

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If it is true that MQM creates strikes with the help of its "handful of armed men", then why are the more than 25000 police and rangers rendered helpless by these handful of armed individuals? The fact is that the people are the source of power and rangers and police cannot confront them. The people participated willingly in the protest movement and the day of mourning and without them there could not have been a historical strike. There is no doubt that a few strike breakers tried to mock the public sentiment as a result of which certain unpleasant incidents occurred in a few localities. The feelings of the majority of the people should be respected and during observances of mourning or protest, provocative acts which incite the people and cause unpleasant incidents should not be committed. Occasionally, the interference in popular movements of elements inimical to society occasions loss to some individuals and sometimes strike breakers suffer loss. Many individuals sustain economic losses but such losses have to be borne out of respect to the wishes of the people.

It is surprising that the government itself has been arranging strikes; an official strike was held over the Kashmir issue and the council of religious parties also held a strike. The economic loss caused by these strikes was as great as that occasioned by MQM's protest movement and day of mourning; but the official media of communication elaborated only on the losses caused by strikes held as a result of MQM's appeal and said that the average citizen and in particular hawkers and poor laborers suffered the most. The media kept quiet about the losses suffered by hawkers and laborers during the strikes called by the government and religious leaders. Is one to believe that cakes were distributed among the hawkers and the poor on those strike days?

MQM made six simple demands from the government and said that if these demands were not accepted, protests would be held on two days of each week, on Fridays and Saturdays. Instead of accepting these demands, the government started operations in Kaurangi, Aurangi and Osmanabad; without any provocation, rangers started firing and spreading fear and anxiety. The British used to employ these tactics but they were defeated. Certain responsible officials of the government have stated that after the agreement to negotiate was made, MQM should have postponed its protest movement but they themselves were not willing to declare that the operation would be postoned because of the pending negotiations. Some ministers have even said that the operation would continue in spite of the negotiations. If they consider shooting muhajirs a sport, let them indulge in the sport and shoot Muhajirs like bird but they should not forget the wrath of God and should remember that MQM cannot be intimidated by the use of provincial force nor are the Muhajirs going to bow in subjugation. If the operation continues, then the protest will continue also and for an indefinite period. Muhajir people are ready for any sacrifice and will never give up their rights. Their love of peace and demonstration of good will should not be mistaken for weakness.

Eight Killed in Karachi by 'Unknown Assailants'

BK2608091295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi, eight people were killed by unknown assailants early this morning. According to the initial information by police sources, the victims, who were residing in two separate houses in Musa Colony, were first picked up by the attackers and then shot dead at another place in the area. Two others were wounded by the assailants.

Islamic Party Chief Arrested for BBC Office Attack

BK2708162295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Aug 27 (AFP) — Police Sunday [27 August] arrested Ziaur Rehman Farooqui, whose extremist Sunni Muslim party is accused of ransacking the local bureau of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), official sources said.

Farooqui, who leads the Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) was taken into custody after he presented himself before the police chief in Faisalabad, an industrial city in the Punjab province, they said.

Prior to giving himself up, he told reporters that the SSP protest campaign against the BBC was totally peaceful.

"It will continue not only in future but its scope will also be widened to other countries," the official news agency Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) quoted him as saying in Faisalabad.

Earlier, in an interview with AFP Farooqui admitted Friday that his party activists were responsible for Thursday's attack on the BBC bureau here, but he slammed the militants for resorting to violence in which correspondents Daneil Lak and Zafar Abbas were injured.

According to BBC representatives here, five youths forcibly entered the bureau late Thursday, broke telephones, damaged office cars and set to fire its furniture and equipment, before fleeing shouting slogans in favour of the SSP.

Strongly condemning the attack and the ransacking, Farooqui said he would personally visit the BBC office soon and "express my regrets."

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Stressing that his followers had gone too far, he said once they were identified he would hand them to the police and expel them from the party.

The SSP, opposes the screening of a documentary the BBC prepared last year, claiming that the film highlighted only the "negative points" about the group.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, condemning the attack as "cowardice", Friday asked Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar to complete a probe into the incident within 24 hours.

Sri Lanka

Daily Assails Indian Official's Flag Raising Bid

BK2408130395 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 16 Aug 95 p 8

[Editorial:"Antics Over Kachchaitivu"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The lunatic fringe is an ever-present reality in this world of ours and it is a matter for satisfaction that both the Indian center as well as the Tamil Nadu government have taken a dim view of the antics of a politician called V. Gopalaswamy, leading the Pattali Makkal Katchi, who had announced his intention of setting forth to Kachchaitivu to hoist the Indian flag on that desolate island which is a speck of Sri Lankan territory.

Prime Ministers Sirima Bandaranaike and Indira Gandhi settled the Kachchaitivu dispute as long ago as April 1976 when it was agreed that the island belonged to Sri Lanka. It was decided then that Indian fishermen would continue to enjoy their traditional right of drying their nets there and pilgrims from India would be entitled to attend the annual festival of the solitary church standing on the island. This festival, which has been suspended for the past several years, had long been an occasion for trade and barter. People from Sri Lanka would take spices, coconut oil, and other items in demand in India while Indians would bring sarees, textiles, and consumer durables valued by Lankans.

The suspension of the Kachchaitivu festival is directly attributable to the tragedy that continues to unfold in the northern and eastern parts of this island. Given the war situation that drags on, and the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] interest in procuring arms and military supplies as well as its other activities, it is not possible to allow the interaction that has taken place annually on this island during what has been really a maha pola [fair]. That has been clearly understood by the church as well as pilgrims, traders, and others who used to look forward to the festival.

The intensified patrolling of the Palk Strait and Sri Lankan and Indian territorial waters between the two countries to counter the LTTE had inevitably caused some friction between the Sri Lanka Navy [SLN] and Indian fishermen straying into Lankan waters in the vicinity of Kachchaitivu. The prawn fishery is the major reason that attracts them there. But given the fact that the Tigers have found the fishing fleet a good cover for obtaining prohibited supplies including fuel, and some fishermen find it most profitable to deal with the Tigers, it has been necessary for the SLN to ensure that the 'no go' areas remain strictly closed. This has led to some incidents in the past and the navy has not been popular with Indian fishermen tempted to ignore the maritime boundary.

These are the sentiments that Gopalaswamy and his Pattali Makkal Katchi are trying to exploit with their announced flag raising on Kachchaitivu. We quoted a spokesman from the Indian High Commission in Colombo saying yesterday that India was taking "all precautions" to ensure that the extremists are not permitted to perform their antics. The Tamil Nadu government too has made it clear that those fishermen joining Gopalaswamy and lending their boats to sail into forbidden seas will risk losing their licenses. Sri Lanka too was sending a small contingent to ensure that nobody violates our sovereignty and sets off a process that can lead to a lot of unpleasantness.

Diplomats in Colombo made the point that it is more practical for India to stop her nationals from sparking an unnecessary incident than for Sri Lanka to deal with it. They are right. Given the very warm relations between India and Sri Lanka at present, demonstrated in numerous ways including intensified surveillance of the waters between the two countries as a deterrent to LTTE activity, New Delhi's response to Gopalaswamy's self-seeking clowning has been exactly what we would expect from a friendly neighbor. There was no news on whether the Tamil Nadu politician had been deflated before setting off as this is being written. That would have been ideal; and it is best that India rather than we snuffed out the threatened comedy.

The earlier unhappy phase in Indo-Lankan relations resulting from the escalation of LTTE-led terrorism is now well behind us. India understands better than most the nature of the monster that she helped create. Rajiv Gandhi's life is only part of the price that has already been paid by India as the Tigers ascended to their present place at the top of the league of international terrorism. New Delhi and Colombo are on the same wave length today on the need to contain this menace. Whoever is in the office in the Indian center must take note of sub-regional sentiments in India regarding Sri Lanka's so-called "Tamil problem". It is in that context that both the Indian government as well as India's

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mainstream press have warmly commended President Kumaratunga's brave effort to find a just and durable settlement to the most serious problem this country has faced in its contemporary history.

'Reports' Say LTTE Hiring Indian 'Mercenaries'

BK2408115395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Military intelligence reports reveal that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is recruiting and employing highly paid mercenaries from South India. It is being done to fill the depleted ranks of its military wing carrying out a terror campaign in the north and east.

Military sources told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE was experiencing a severe manpower shortage following heavy losses at the hands of the security forces. The last such incident was at Weli Oya in July when it lost 400 of its fighting cadres. The LTTE has been steadily losing cadres in limited operations carried out by the security forces. This includes around 50 this week. Military sources also said that 50 percent of the LTTE's military wing now comprise youths under 16 years and below. Women cadres constitute around 30 percent of the LTTE's military wing.

Red Cross Conditions for Escorting Ships Rejected

BK2008123795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has rejected as unacceptable the large number of conditions laid down by the Red Cross to resume the escort of government-chartered cargo ships to the north. The commissioner general of essential services, M.M. Juneid, told the SLBC that the International Committee of Red Cross [ICRC] had indicated it was ready to resume escorting cargo ships to Jaffna if the government accepted their new conditions. Mr. Juneid said that he has contacted the government agent, Jaffna, with regard to the movement of essential supplies to the north. The commissioner general of essential services also said that the Red Cross has revised some of their earlier conditions but still they remained unacceptable.

The ICRC last month withdrew its escort to cargo ships going to the northern peninsula because of lack of security guarantees from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Among the new conditions, which Mr. Juneid described as running into an impressive list, was that the ICRC would escort cargo vessels only to Point Pedro after receiving security guarantees. The Red Cross has, however, agreed to have the vessels checked by the Navy at the Kankesaturai port, but it would not offer protection to ships that unload food at the port itself.

Some 8,000 tons of food items had been sent to Jaffna each month prior to the ICRC's decision last month to withdraw its escort. Two ships loaded with rice, milk powder, and fuel to Jaffna have remained at the Colombo port for the last two weeks. Another ship loaded with food items and fuel is anchored at the Kankesanturai port since last Wednesday [16 August]. The commissioner general has asked the government agents to take the ship anchored at Colombo.

Red Cross Said 'Unreasonable'

BK2508131195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lanka is the only country which is very concerned about feeding the people of an area where war is declared against the legitimate government. This was stated by the minister of ports, shipping, rehabilitation and reconstruction, Mohamed Ashraff, when he responded to a question raised by a newsman at the weekly cabinet briefing yesterday. The government without any interruption used to ship 8,693 metric tons of food supplies monthly as required for the people in the Jaffna peninsula. In addition, it maintained a buffer stock for two months.

He pointed out that vessels carrying food there should be properly examined before it reaches the people in the north. These vessels will not be permitted to carry weapons and that was why the Navy was conducting inspections at the Colombo and the KKS [Kankesanthurai] harbors. He pointed out that the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] was not willing to cooperate and their position was that they could give protection to these food vessels only in consultation with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The ICRC is insisting that the government send its vessels to Point Pedro without touching at the KKS harbor. The ICRC maintain that they could give protection to vessels only in the unliberated areas. Minister Ashraff said that the GA [Government Agent] Jaffna was also not willing to take charge of these activities. The minister said that food ships were unable to proceed to the Jaffna peninsula because the ICRC

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insists that they could not unload the food for civilians in government-controlled areas of Jaffna.

Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar said that Sri Lanka cannot forget the good things that the International Committee of Red Cross had done to Sri Lanka during the war. But, he said that there were times when the ICRC was unreasonable. He said that there was room to believe that the ICRC is being pressurized by the LTTE.

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